ROSWELL
Revisited

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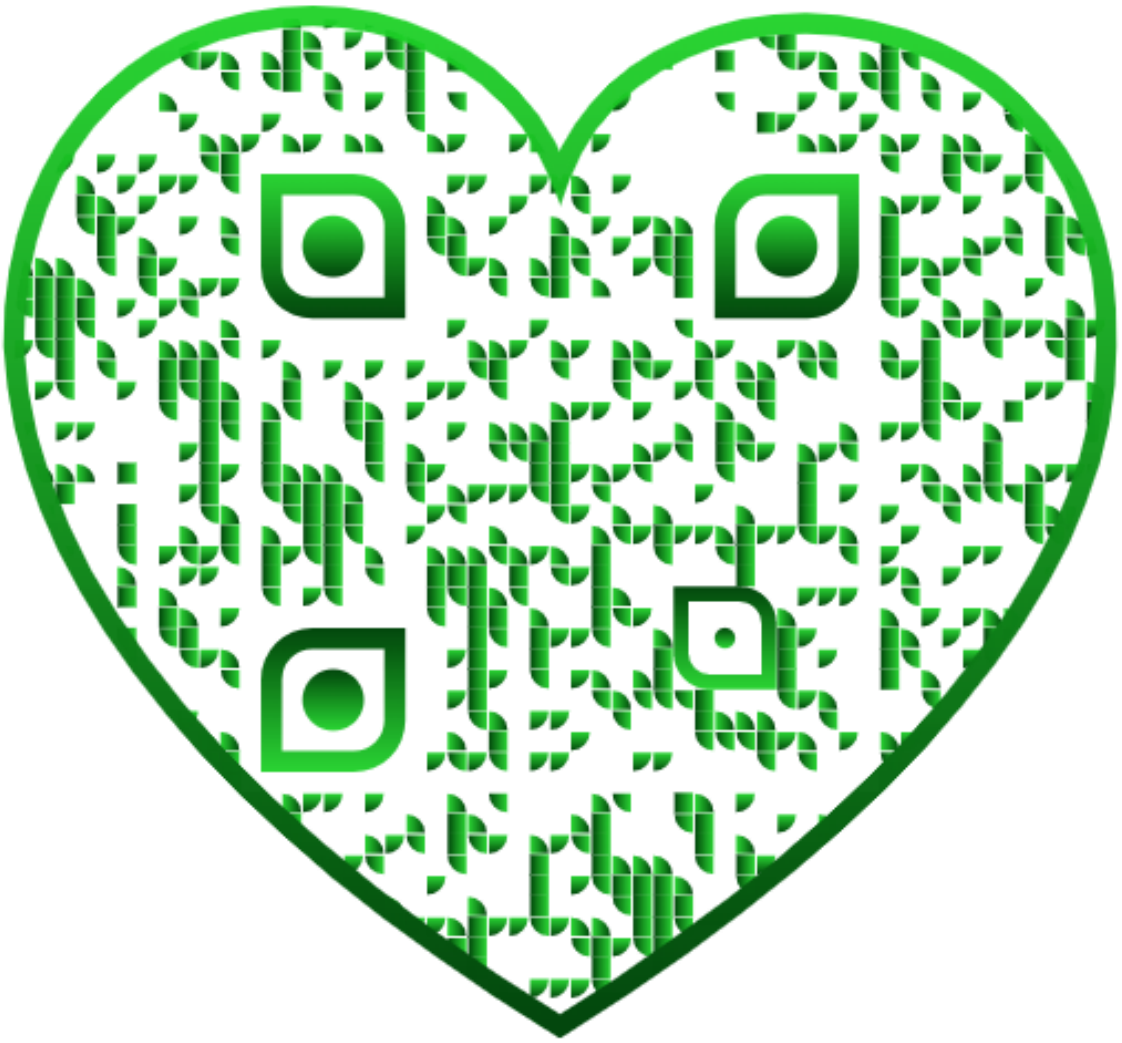

Annotation

In Roswell, New Mexico, in early July 1947, something strange happened. *Something crashed.*

Col.William Blanchard of the Roswell Army Air Field told Lt.Walter Haut, the Public Information Officer, to alert the local media. Haut produced a short press release that said that members of the 509th Bomb Group, there in Roswell, had recovered the wreckage of a flying saucer. Haut took the press release into town, delivered it to both newspapers and radio stations, and then went home for lunch.

Hours later Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey, photographed in front of some debris in his office at Eighth Air Force Headquarters, said that all the excitement was unwarranted. Nothing had been found but a weather balloon.

Today, we know better.We have solid eyewitness testimony from reliable sources who can prove they were in Roswell at the time of the incident. They were in a position to know what was happening and they have confirmed many of our suspicions. Now we need to finish the job, prove exactly what crashed in the New Mexico desert, and let the world in on the greatest secret of the last thousand years.

- Kevin D. Randle
  - Chapter One: The Beginnings
    -
    - The Object in the Air
    - The Debris Field and the Strange Metal
    - The Chaves County Sheriff and the U.S. Army
    - Counter-Intelligence Agents Disagree
    - The Press Release
    - Flying Saucer Crashes Disappear from the Literature
  - Chapter Two: Talk of the Bodies
    -
    - Anne Robbins
    - Frankie Rowe
    - Beverley Bean
    - First-Hand Witnesses
    - Martin Jorgenson
    - Thomas Gonzales
    - The Military Police at Roswell
    - Evaluating the Tales
  - Chapter Three: Colonel Blanchard’s Staff
    -
    - Major Jesse Marcel

        - Other Members of Blanchard's Staff
        - Not All Are Positive, Others Are
        - More Flight Crew Testimony
    - Chapter Four: The "Higher-Ups"
        -
        - Brigadier General Arthur Exon
    - Chapter Five: The Media
        -
        - Johnny McBoyle and KSWS
        - The Associated Press
        - The Press in Fort Worth
        - Confusion about Ramey and Marcel
    - Chapter Six: Investigations and Investigators
        -
        - Plock, Korff and Exon
        - The Attacks on Jesse Marcel
        - Verification of the Alien Crash
    - Chapter Seven: Too Many Witnesses?
        -
        - Glenn Dennis
        - Frank Kaufmann and The Nine
        - Gerald Anderson
        - Jim Ragsdale
        - Lieutenant Colonel Philip J. Corso
        - Walt Whitmore, Jr
    - Chapter Eight: The Skeptical Side of the Fence
        -
        - The Twining Letter
        - Air Intelligence Report No. 100-203-79
        - The McCoy Notes
        - Captain Lorenzo Kent Kimball
        - Last Comments Here
    - Chapter Nine: General Ramey and the Smoking Gun
        -
        - First Attempts to Read the Memo
        - Others Enter the Arena
        - "Victims of the Wreck"
        - "Priming" of the Victims
        - Agreement in the Wording
        - A New Experiment
    - Chapter Ten: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly
        -
        - Documentation Against

        - Witnesses for the Opposition
        - Documentation for the UFO Crash
        - More Eyewitness Testimony
        - The Ugly
        - The Bad
        - The Good
        - Military Reaction
    - The Final Word (for now)

Kevin D. Randle
Roswell Revisited

Chapter One: The Beginnings

At first, and for nearly forty years afterwards, the Roswell case, when it was mentioned at all, was concluded to be a hoax or a misidentification with a weather balloon as the most likely solution. Among the few exceptions were a couple of paragraphs in Frank Edwards' 1966 book *Flying Saucers Are Serious Business*. Almost everything he wrote about the case was wrong, other than his suggestion that something had crashed and that the Air Force attempted to explain it away but he did mention Roswell and the crash of something unusual. Harold T. Wilkins, in his 1954 book *Flying Saucers on Attack* mentioned it once in the same inaccurate vein.

The Roswell story as we now understand it, begins when Mack Brazel, a hired hand and ranch foreman living near Corona, New Mexico, drove into Roswell in early July 1947 with samples of strange metallic debris. The date of this event has always been in dispute. The some of the news reports suggest Brazel went to Roswell on Monday, July 7, yet there are other stories, such as one attributed to the United Press quotes Wilcox as saying that it had been the day before yesterday, or, in this case, Sunday. Time lines constructed by researchers and based on the testimony of various participants seems to corroborate the Sunday, July 6 date for Brazel's trip into Roswell.

Adding to the confusion is the article that appeared in the *Roswell Daily Record* on July 8. According to that story, Dan Wilmot of Roswell had seen something flying to the northwest on the evening of July 2. When the rest of the story was told, some researchers believed that the object Wilmot saw that evening was the same one that crashed some 75 miles to the northwest.

Brazel, then, sitting in his ranch on that evening, or possibly a day or two later, heard the rumblings of a distant thunderstorm. There was a sound, an explosion that didn't sound like thunder, that caught his attention. In the weeks that followed, Brazel would tell some of his neighbors about this. One of those, Marian Strickland, in a video-taped interview, told it to me. Others, such as Loretta Proctor told a similar tale, also on video tape and to others so that a wide range of testimony about the thunderstorm and the strange explosion was available for independent review. This, of course, doesn't suggest proof, merely corroboration of an observation.

The Object in the Air

There were those, however, who did see something in the sky. William Woody was a young man in 1947. Later he would sign an affidavit for the Fund for UFO Research attesting to the veracity of his claim. He told me, he and his father were working outside when something seemed to light up the ground around them. Woody said that the object had a bright white intensity and that it had a long, flame-like tail with bright colors like a blow-torch flame fading down into a pale red. This tail, according to Woody, was very long.

They watched it travel across the sky, appearing in the south and moving to the north, vanishing below the horizon. He said that he thought it had been in view for as long as half a minute and that his father thought that it was a big meteorite that might have fallen to the ground north of Roswell.

The object was of enough interest to Woody and his father that they decided to go look for it a couple of days later. Woody was not sure of the exact timing of the drive, but did say that as they drove north, out of Roswell on the main highway, they saw military vehicles off to the west. He wrote in his affidavit, signed on September 28, 1993, "We headed north through Roswell on U.S. 285. About 19 miles north of town, where the highway crosses the Macro Draw, we saw at least one uniformed soldier stationed beside the road. As we drove along, we saw more sentries and Army vehicles. They were stationed at all places — ranch roads, crossroads, etc. where there was access to the highway and drive east or west, and they were armed, some with rifles, others with sidearms… We stopped at one sentry post, and my father asked what was going on. The soldier, who's [sic] attitude was very nice, just said his orders were not to let anyone leave 285 and go into the countryside.

"As we drove north,"he continued, "we saw that the Corona road (State 247), which runs west from Highway 285, was blocked by soldiers. We went on as far as Ramon, about nine miles north of the 247 intersection. There were sentries there, too. At Ramon we turned around and headed south and home… I remember my father saying he thought the Army was looking for something it had tracked on its way down."

On the Roswell base, Corporal E. L. Pyles, thought that he saw something cross the sky. Back as I was putting together *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, I made an assumption. Frank Kaufmann gave me some documentation that said the craft had fallen near midnight on July 4, 1947. At the time I had no reason to believe that Kaufmann's documentation was fraudulent so I assumed that the object Pyles saw was the same one that Kaufmann had talked about it. The result was that in the book, I assigned a date and time to the observation, though the best Pyles could do, originally, was tell us he thought he made the sighting in 1947 and that he had the impression that it was in the summer. Hardly a definitive identification.

But there are some facts here that help us determine a time and date. First, according to the notes I have, Pyles had suggested he wasn't on the main base, but at one of the outlying facilities. Later, talking to Karl Pflock, he said that he, and a friend, were walking across the drill field on the main base, having left the NCO club. He saw the object, which he described to Don Schmitt as something like a shooting star but larger. He said that it was orangish and that it was headed downward.

Significantly, and contrary to what Pflock would later write, Pyles told me, and us, that a couple of days later he had seen the article in *The Roswell Daily Record* and wondered if what he had seen had anything to do with that. In other words, Pyles couldn't remember a solid date, or even year, but could relate it to the newspaper articles which does establish a date and a year. It was Pyles who related the sighting of the bright object to the Roswell case and who brought up the articles he'd seen in the newspaper which certainly fixed the date as the first week in July, 1947.

The Debris Field and the Strange Metal

The day after the strange explosion in the thunderstorm, according to most of those same witnesses, meaning here, the Proctors and Mack's son Bill, Brazel was riding the range, checking on the sheep when he came to a field filled with strange metallic debris. Estimates by others who saw it later suggested that the debris field was about three-quarters of a mile long and a couple of hundred yards wide. According to a man Brazel hired to help with the ranch work, Tommy Tyree, the material was so densely packed that the sheep refused to cross it and that meant that Brazel had to drive them around it to get the sheep to water. Brazel was annoyed because he wanted to know who would clean up the mess probably figuring that it would take several hours, if not days, to do it.

Loretta Procter told me, as she had others on both audio tape and video tape that she, along with her husband, Floyd, had a chance to see a small piece of the debris recovered by Mack Brazel but never bothered to drive down to the debris field. Proctor said that gas was expensive and tires were expensive and they didn't want to take the time. So, she didn't see the field then, but there are indications that her young son, William "Dee" Proctor, who was with Brazel on the morning he found the debris, did. In fact, all this might have happened as Brazel took Dee home that day so that he had a chance to talk to the Proctors about the crash.

The debris that Brazel brought with him that day was about the size of a pencil, according to what Proctor told me, and that they couldn't cut it and they couldn't burn it. Although light weight, it was extremely strong. She said that neither she nor her husband could identify it and both were surprised by its durability.

Dee Proctor never really talked to investigators about the event. I spoke with him twice, both times briefly and both times by accident. He did confirm that he had been with Brazel and that military authorities had talked to him in the days that followed the discovery. In fact, it was clear that he had not only been there, but he had taken some friends out there with him. He would not say what the military told him, nor would he say much about what he had seen, other than to say that it was a field with metallic debris and the remnants of a craft. It was clear that these experiences with the military left a lasting impression on him which guided what he said for the remainder of his life.

Of course, these vague descriptions tells us nothing of the nature of the object that crashed. He also said that the craft was of extraterrestrial origin, though those words came from the older man fifty years later and not the seven-year-old boy in 1947.

Proctor died in January, 2006 at age 65. He had always been a somewhat reclusive man, quick to anger and reticent to talk about these events. In 1996, he took his mother to a bluff about ten or so miles from their ranch house and about

two and a half miles from the debris field. He told her that was the field in which more than just debris had been found. Any trace of the craft or its impact was long gone in 1996.

After showing the material to the Proctors, Brazel went into Corona and mentioned to friends there that he had found something weird. The exact date can't be established now, but it seems it would have been on Saturday, July 5. There are those, and I was among them at one time, who suggested that Brazel was told there was a reward for evidence or explanation for the flying saucers. The newspaper articles announcing that didn't appear until after the July 4 weekend and there is no evidence that Brazel had access to a newspaper. He had no electricity and no radio at the ranch so that he couldn't have heard about the rewards before he went into Roswell. If he found out about the money, it would have been incidental to his travel to Roswell and given the reporting in the *Roswell Daily Record*, after he arrived in town the second time.

The next day, Sunday, July 6 (here I accept the reconstruction of various researchers and the information supplied by the United Press), he gathered up a small bit of the debris and took it into Roswell and to Chavez County Sheriff George Wilcox. His real motivation here was probably to find someone responsible for the mess on the ranch and someone to clean it up for him. Clearly, whatever it was, it came from the sky and the Army, at Roswell, was responsible for stuff in the sky.

According to the newspaper, however, Brazel wasn't all that concerned about the debris and he didn't come into town until Monday, July 7. The reason this time, according to others, was to sell some wool. Bill Brazel told me later that it was unlikely that his dad would be trying to sell wool in July.

The Chaves County Sheriff and the U.S. Army

Although Wilcox died before researchers could interview him, his daughters, Phyllis McGuire and Elizabeth Tulk could provide information about what happened inside the sheriff's office back then. McGuire, a teenager at the time, didn't get to see much before she was chased out of the office. She said there was talk of a trip out to the crash site but she wasn't sure if the sheriff had gone out himself, or he merely dispatched two of his deputies. She did know that someone with the sheriff's department did.

This does bring up a question of jurisdiction. Roswell is in Chaves County and Corona is in Lincoln County. It seems strange that the Chaves County sheriff would send his deputies into another county on an investigation. However, according to the witnesses, he did send out deputies and they did find something and later on, it would seem that one of the sites was in Chavez County.

Although the military would have trouble finding the debris field without a guide, the deputies, from that area, believed they could, based on the description given them by Brazel. They left the office and returned much later, McGuire thought it was after dark, saying they had seen no debris field, but had found an area of blackened desert. They said it looked as if something large and circular had landed and then taken off. It had baked the ground to a hardness that surprised them. There would be later, other corroboration for the observation.

Wilcox wasn't sure what Brazel should do but suggested they call out to the base and talk to them. To Wilcox, as it had to others, the problem seemed to be one created by the military. Wilcox called out to the base and eventually was directed to Major Jesse Marcel, the air intelligence officer at the Roswell Army Air Field. Marcel, according to what he would tell interviewers decades later, including Stan Friedman and Len Stringfield, was finishing lunch when the call came into the Officer's Club.

Marcel said in those later interviews that he had gone to the sheriff's office to talk to the sheriff and Brazel and then returned to the base. Brazel had said he had some errands and Marcel wanted to coordinate with his fellow officers. Marcel said that he talked to Colonel William Blanchard, his commanding officer, and Blanchard told him to take the new counterintelligence officer with him. Later that day Marcel, and the Counter-Intelligence Corps officer, then Captain Sheridan Cavitt, followed Brazel out to the ranch. They stayed that evening in a small out building, ate cold beans according to Marcel and the next morning were taken to the debris field.

This field was over a ridge line and down in a sort of valley where it was concealed from the roads that Brazel, Marcel and Cavitt took the day before. To the south, the valley opened and someone approaching from that direction would have been able to see the debris field from maybe two or three miles away. From everywhere else, you had to be on top of the low hills or the ridges to see

anything.

Marcel, according to the testimony he gave to researchers in the 1980s, was impressed with what he was seeing. Here was a huge field that was filled with strange metallic debris. There was nothing recognizable in it. Just broken metal and something that Marcel described as parchment but that was tough and wouldn't burn when a match was held to it. He talked of some metallic material that was very thin but so very strong they couldn't dent with a sledge hammer. He was puzzled by what he was seeing.

Once he had a chance to examine the debris, Marcel was convinced it was nothing like anything he had ever seen. He would later tell researchers and reporters that, "It came to Earth but it was not something from Earth."

Cavitt, on the other hand, insisted in our first interviews with him, that he had not been a participant in any such off base activities, contrary to what Marcel said. Cavitt told me that he had never bothered with a balloon recovery and that he, and Master Sergeant Lewis Rickett, the NCOIC (Noncommissioned Officer In Charge) of their office had been too busy with important work to worry about weather balloons falling on ranches nearly a hundred miles from Roswell. In fact, according to Cavitt originally, he hadn't even been in Roswell when all these events took place and didn't know why Marcel had said otherwise.

But then his story began to evolve slowly and he even showed me records establishing that he had just finished his counterintelligence training and had been assigned to Roswell in June 1947. Given travel time and leave, he said that he didn't arrive until the middle of July but his wife had been there in early July to pick out an apartment and get ready to receive him. There was also talk of his wife attending a wedding in Washington, which was why she was in Roswell early, but I never got the details. Apparently, after the wedding, she went to Roswell on her own to await her husband.

Eventually Cavitt admitted that he had been at the base when Brazel went to the sheriff and Marcel went out to the debris field. Eventually he admitted he was the man who accompanied Marcel, though he was vague about the details of that thinking that he had gone only with Rickett. He thought Marcel might have been there, but he wasn't sure.

Later, in 1994, when the Air Force investigated the Roswell crash, and Colonel Richard Weaver from the Secretary of the Air Force's office visited Cavitt at his home in Sequim, Washington, Cavitt had a new story. Yes, he had gone out with Marcel and found a field filled with the torn up debris, but he had recognized it immediately. There was no doubt in his mind that it was a weather balloon and, of course, the rawin radar reflector.

Remember here that this was before Lieutenant Walter Haut had been called by the commanding officer of the base at Roswell, Blanchard, and told to create the press release. This was, according to the reconstructions of the time line and given the testimony of Marcel, Monday, July 7, a full day before the newspaper stories broke. No one had heard that something had fallen near Roswell other than

the sheriff and, of course, Marcel and Cavitt. No one really knew where the debris field was or how to get to it.

But standing on that sun drenched field with the temperature in the high 90s, Cavitt didn't say a word about the identity of the debris. Instead, he returned to the base and kept his mouth shut, never telling Blanchard what he had seen, and never telling anyone else that all the fuss was about a balloon. He would suggest, as a counter-intelligence agent, he was outside Blanchard's chain of command, and while technically correct, it seems that Blanchard would have spoken to both Marcel and Cavitt upon their return from the ranch. Marcel would be enthusiastic about the strange metallic debris and stumped by its identity. Cavitt, however, told Weaver that he knew immediately that it was a balloon. So why didn't he mention this to Marcel on the field, or to Blanchard when they reported what they had seen? Why allow anything to be misunderstood when he had the solution? The weather balloon is a rather mundane solution for all the excitement, but it would have stopped the press release and we wouldn't be talking about it sixty years later.

Counter-Intelligence Agents Disagree

Instead, according to Lewis Rickett, interviewed by several investigators in the 1990s, Cavitt returned to the field later, along with Rickett. Rickett would say that they were stopped by the military police who were guarding the site because Cavitt and Rickett were in civilian clothes. Rickett would describe this cordon, mentioned that Major Edwin Easley, the provost marshal (think chief of police here) was there overseeing the security and said that he, Rickett, picked up a lightweight piece of metal that was slightly curved and about eighteen inches long. He first wanted to know if it was hot, meaning radioactive, and then he tried to bend it, but the material was so strong that he couldn't do it. Very light weight and extremely strong would be the descriptions heard over and over.

Remember here that there are two important parts of that attempt. One is that the metal was light weight and thin. Rickett, as so many others, thought of it as feather light and maybe flimsy because of its light weight. And that he couldn't bend it, no matter how hard he tried.

The second important piece of Rickett's story is the military cordon. Military police were guarding access to the site and were requiring everyone to show identification before they were allowed closer. That included those in uniform and those who would be expected at such a location.

I will note here that others, such as George "Judd" Roberts, who owned part of local radio station KGFL in 1947 said that he, along with the other owner, Walt Whitmore, also ran into the military cordon and were turned back. Remember that William Woody talked of a heavy cordon along highway 285 with armed men. In the early 1990s, I talked with a vertebrate palaeontologist, Bertrand Schultz, University of Nebraska, who told me that he too, had seen the military cordon. Other witnesses said that they had seen military vehicles parked on dirt roads leading to the site, controlling the access into the desert. That there were military out there turning back traffic seems to be well documented by multiple witnesses.

Cavitt, however, during his interview with Weaver for the new Air Force investigation, would say that there weren't any guards and that he wasn't sure who he had accompanied out to the site. He thought it was Rickett and he wasn't sure that Marcel had gone with him or not. He told Weaver, "There were no, as I understand, check points or anything like that (going though guards and that sort of garbage…"

So, we have a number of witnesses telling us contradictory stories. How do we decide who is telling us the truth? We simply take those stories told by the most witnesses and look at them. If one tells us something, and everyone else has a different version which is told in a similar way, then the single witness is probably inaccurate.

In the interviews I conducted with Cavitt, I only saw him nervous once. We were discussing the idea of alien bodies. He looked at me, leaned forward,

picked up a magazine as if suddenly interested in it, tossed it down and leaned back. He asked, “Bill Rickett tell you that?”

Although it was Rickett, I didn’t want to identify the source of it. I said, “No,” and Cavitt relaxed. I now wish that I had said something like, “That’s not all he told us,” but I let Cavitt off the hook.

The important point here, however, was Cavitt’s reaction to the fact we had talked with Bill Rickett. It suggests that Rickett had the same sort of inside knowledge that we suspect Cavitt had. And, Cavitt was worried about Rickett providing us with some of that information. He just didn’t know what we might know from Rickett and what we might be guessing about. It also seems to underscore the veracity of what Rickett told us, like being stopped by a military cordon and suggesting that Cavitt’s comment about no military cordon is in error.

The Press Release

In Roswell, on July 8, after Blanchard had talked to Marcel and probably to Cavitt, Blanchard told Haut, the Public Information Officer, to alert the local media. Later Haut would not remember if Blanchard gave him the details of the crash for him to write the release, or had dictated the entire press release to him over the telephone. However it happened, Haut ended up with a short press release that said the many rumors about the flying saucers had ended when members of the 509th Bomb Group, there in Roswell, had recovered the wreckage of one. Haut, according to what he told me, took the press release into town, delivered it to both newspapers and radio stations, and then went home for lunch and to mow the lawn.

It was a simple and short press release, mentioning that a flying saucer had been captured. No real details available, other than a local rancher had told Sheriff Wilcox who in turn had told Jesse Marcel. Marcel was on his way to his higher headquarters with the wreckage. The article appeared in the *Roswell Daily Record*, then an afternoon newspaper.

Hours later Brigadier General Roger Ramey, photographed in front of some debris in his office at Eighth Air Force Headquarters, said that all the excitement was not warranted. All that had been found was a weather balloon with a rawin radar target. It was made of aluminum foil, balsa, twine and some fancy tape. The officers at Roswell had been caught up in the growing flying saucer hysteria. That is not exactly what I'd want to hear about the men who were members of the only nuclear strike force in the world. Instead, I wanted to hear about calm, cool professionals doing an important job, not hysterical men who couldn't tell the difference between a rather common weather observation balloon and an alien spacecraft.

Reporters searched for some of those involved in the story. Haut reported that he received telephone calls from around the world, as well as post cards and letters. The phone lines to the base were tied up with incoming calls. Haut said that Blanchard told him to make the telephone calls stop, but there was nothing that he could do about it.

Brazel, however, was in custody at the base thanks to the station owners of KGFL who had taken him into Roswell for an interview. Marcel was ordered to Fort Worth with some of the debris to show it to the Eighth Air Force commander, Ramey and therefore, wasn't in Roswell to respond to reporters or their telephone calls. And the sheriff, who also reported calls from around the world, refused to answer any questions from anyone, telling those who called him to contact the base.

On July 9, the *Roswell Daily Record* ran follow up stories about the crash. In one story General Ramey explained that debris was merely the remains of a weather balloon that had been misidentified. In another, Mack Brazel told how he

had found the object, not a couple of days earlier, but a couple of weeks earlier. He said that the wreckage was made up of "rubber strips, tinfoil, a rather tough paper and sticks." Two weeks after the initial find, he, his wife, a son Vernon and his daughter Bessie, went back out to the field and cleaned it all up.

Brazel, according to the interview, had not seen anything fall from the sky and there was no talk of a strange explosion during a thunderstorm. At least he didn't mention those things while he was talking to the press. He said he didn't know what size or shape it had been, but thought it must have been about 12 feet long. The rubber was smoky gray and scattered over an area of about 200 yards.

According to the article, "When the debris was gathered up the tinfoil, paper, tape and sticks made up a bundle about three feet long and 7 or 8 inches thick, while the rubber made a bundle about 18 or 20 inches long and about 8 inches thick. In all, he estimated the entire lot would have weighed maybe five pounds."

Brazel also said, in a comment that is often overlooked, that he had found weather balloons on two other occasions but what he had found this time didn't resemble them in any way. He added, "I am sure what I found was not any weather observation balloon."

Flying Saucer Crashes Disappear from the Literature

And that is pretty much where it ended. Other than an occasional mention in a UFO book, without much in the way of facts, the case was seen as a misidentification of a weather balloon. Of course, there had been rumors of UFO crashes afterwards, but then Frank Scully wrote, *Behind the Flying Saucers* and the landscape of UFOs changed significantly. Scully was reporting on a series of flying saucer crashes that took place in the desert southwest, each of which resulted in the recovery of a craft and the bodies of the alien creatures that began months after the Roswell case. Scully was sure of his facts because he had them verified by a government scientist who was in charge of the investigative project.

Within months of publication, Scully's story was discredited. Nearly everyone inside the UFO research community, and those who would join it over the next couple of decades, rejected, out of hand, other tales of spaceship crashes. Scully's downfall, along with revelations about his main sources, both of whom were later charged with fraud in a case that had nothing to do with flying saucers, ended interest in such claims. The theory seemed to be that if the extraterrestrial beings could build a ship to cross interstellar distances, they wouldn't make mistakes that would cause them to crash once they arrived on Earth. Besides, no story of a crash had ever withstood a serious and competent investigation.

The story stayed that way for decades. Brief mentions of it in some obscure publications, or brief mentions in books that reached a wider audience, but always with *Behind the Flying Saucers* in the background. And always with the note that Roswell have been identified as a weather balloon. No one was interested.

Except Len Stringfield, a UFO researcher from Ohio who began to collect tales of flying saucer crashes. Some of them were single witness and many of them made no logical sense, but Stringfield's purpose was to put the stories out there in case there were other witnesses, or maybe a researcher interested enough to follow up on a case. Stringfield believed there was something to some of these tales though not necessarily to all of them. His ideas were radical, even in the fringe world of UFO research.

Then Jesse Marcel, no longer in the Army, living in Houma, Louisiana, and retired from repairing TVs and radios, began to tell friends and ham radio operators that he had picked up pieces of a flying saucers many years earlier. One of those was a station manager in New Orleans who mentioned it to Stan Friedman, who was being interviewed about his UFO research at that New Orleans station. The station manager suggested that maybe he should talk to Marcel.

Marcel said that he couldn't remember the exact date, but provided enough details, and sounded credible enough, that research could begin. Friedman told both Len Stringfield and William L. Moore, a fellow investigator. The research

began with the newspapers in June 1947 and worked on from there. On July 9 there were pictures of Jesse Marcel, in Brigadier General Ramey's office, holding the remains of what looked exactly like what Ramey said it was, a rawin target and a neoprene weather balloon.

But it gave them a date and a location and confirmed some of what Marcel was saying. It was clear from the newspaper stories that for a few hours anyway the world thought a flying saucer had crashed and the U.S. Army had recovered it. Now the search for confirmation could begin.

Unlike the tales of the past, this one didn't evaporate when people started looking at it. Marcel had confirmed that he had picked up a flying saucer and gave descriptions of debris that resembled, in a gross respect, the paper, parchment and metallic material mentioned in the newspaper and the remnants of a weather balloon and rawin target. More important, there were names attached and places to go for corroboration.

Chapter Two: Talk of the Bodies

A number of years ago I believed that I had interviewed more than a half dozen people who had seen the bodies of the alien creatures killed in the Roswell UFO crash. These were men who claimed to have first-hand knowledge, had been stationed in Roswell at the time, or who lived in Roswell at the time, and who seemed to be telling me the truth. One by one I learned that they hadn't seen alien bodies and their stories, while quite exciting, were not based in reality. They had been less than candid in their responses to my questions.

That seemed to set the investigation back to its original point, meaning we had only the testimony of those who had seen the strange metallic debris, who had walked the Debris Field on the Foster Ranch, or had seen something in the air that might have been the craft just prior to the crash. While that is enough to get us started with the investigation again, it certainly doesn't take us to the extraterrestrial. But today, we have new testimony from witnesses who seem to be more honest, suggesting alien creatures were killed and their bodies were recovered. Some of that testimony is second hand, but it does provide us with a glimpse of what those creatures might have looked like and what the situation in Roswell might have been in July 1947. In reviewing this testimony, we must keep in mind that it is second hand.

Anne Robbins

One of the latest of these second-hand witnesses to talk about this was Anne Robbins whose husband T/SGT Ernest Robert Robbins told her about his brush with the alien creatures near Roswell when he was stationed there with the Army. Robbins, according to what his wife said, never talked much about the incident, but did provide some information.

They had been to dinner at the NCO Club at the Roswell Army Air Field and had gotten home late. They were already in bed when the telephone rang ordering him back to the base. He was gone for about eighteen hours and when he returned, his clothes were wet. He said that he had been through a decontamination process at the base before he had been allowed to leave. He didn't really tell her why that had been necessary or exactly what the decontamination had been.

Anne wanted to know what had happened and he told her, reluctantly, that there have been a flying saucer crash outside of Roswell. She didn't believe him but she still asked questions about it. She learned that the craft was saucer shaped and that there was a top layer that was oblong and had windows in it, at least according to what she remembered.

Robbins told his wife that there had been three beings on the craft. He used the word people. One was dead and two were alive. Later he would tell his son that the creatures had pear-shaped heads with large black eyes and brown skin. In a break with traditional descriptions, he said that they had no nose and no mouth.

And that was about all he would say about it to them. He followed, for the most part, the orders not to talk he had been given in 1947.

Frankie Rowe

Robbins wasn't the only person to report that there had been survivors. Frankie Rowe, a young girl in 1947 and whose father worked for the Roswell Fire Department told me that her father had been on a fire run outside of Roswell when he saw the wrecked alien ship. She also said that she had handled debris from the craft. Skeptics have dismissed her testimony saying that it has been discredited, but the truth is, their criticisms of her are without merit and saying something is discredited is not really the same as discrediting it.

As just a single example, some have said that her tale of the Roswell Fire Department response to the crash is untrue because the site of the wreck is outside of Roswell and the fire department didn't make runs outside the city limits. This came from a former city council member who was not on the council in 1947 but who stilled lived in Roswell in the mid-1990s.

To check this out, I went to the Roswell Fire Department and asked them about runs outside the city. One of the fire fighters asked what they were supposed to do. Let it burn? But what was true when I was there in 1992 might not have been true in 1947, so I looked at the log books that go back into the 1920s. The truth is the Fire Department did make runs outside the city as the fire logs show so it is not outside the realm of possibility. Unfortunately, there is no log for this particular run. For those with a conspiratorial turn of the mind, the claim might be that the Army managed to get the entry of that specific run removed so that there would be no documentation if anyone ever looked.

Rowe, who has granted several interviews, told her story in depth to me in January 1993. She said that her father had come home after his shift at the fire station (which lasted about twenty-four hours) and had something important to say. He then told them, according to Rowe, that they had gone about thirty miles outside of Roswell and then a few miles back to the west. He said there had been some kind of a crash and that he had called it a spaceship or a flying saucer or something.

Then she said one of the most important things. According to her, "I remember him saying that some of them helped pick up some pieces of the wreckage. He said he saw two bodies in bags and one that was walking around."

She said, "…he said he was sure that there were bodies because the third one would go over to them… he talked about [how] this third one would go back and forth between different parts of the wreckage and was walking around dazed. He didn't say if anyone tried to talk to this person."

The creatures were, according to what Rowe remembered, about the size of a ten year old, meaning that they were smaller than a human adult. The color was like that of an insect called Child of the Earth (more commonly called the Jerusalem Cricket) which is sort of copper colored or maybe a sort of dark brown.

Rowe also saw a bit of metallic debris that a New Mexico State Trooper claimed to have picked up in the field. Rowe said that she thought it was about a week later. She'd had some dental work done previously and there were complications from it. She was in Roswell to have it repaired and when she finished at the dentist, she had gone over to the fire house to wait so that her father could drive her home.

The State Policeman came in while she was waiting to go home. He walked up to a table and said to the firemen, "You guys aren't going to believe what I've got." He pulled out his hand and had a piece of metal.

Rowe said, "I think I got to pick it up and crumple it one time. I can only remember doing it one time… It just didn't feel like anything… it was kind of a pewter color… Everybody got out their knives or whatever and tried to cut and they tried to burn it."

There is one problem, with all this, however. According to Rowe, she'd had some oral surgery which had begun to bled, which was why she had been in Roswell in the middle of July 1947. That was why she had been at the fire house when the State Policeman had brought in the metallic debris. She had gone in so that the dentist could treat her. Although records are not complete, there are none to show that Rowe's oral surgery was done in July 1947 or that there were later complications as she suggested. I, and others, have been unable to confirm the dental work. While this is what she remembered, the reason for her being in Roswell could have been something more mundane and she forget about it.

Unfortunately, as has happened so often in this case, no researcher had a chance to talk with Rowe's father to get his first-hand observations. He died long before the investigation began. But I did have the opportunity to talk with her sister, Helen Cahill. She was married in 1947 and living in California at the time of the crash, but had heard some discussion about the events during a visit to New Mexico in 1960. Although her information wasn't as complete as that of Rowe, it confirmed, for what it's worth, that Rowe did not invent the tale of the crash. Of course, it does little to validate it, except to suggest that Rowe's father was talking about a UFO crash long before the reports of the Roswell events came to light and at a time when few people thought of UFOs as being from other worlds. Other explanations seemed to make people happier.

Beverley Bean

Adding to this mix of second-hand stories of survivors of the crash is Beverly Bean, a pleasant English woman, who told researchers about her father, Sergeant Melvin Brown who had been stationed at Roswell in 1947. Unlike some of those who have told stories about Roswell, Brown is in the Yearbook (just like a high school yearbook that contains the pictures of about 80 % of everyone assigned to the base) that Walter Haut created in 1947. It is a document that allows us to verify that a soldier did, in fact, serve at Roswell during the critical period without having to gather information from the records center in St. Louis.

Like so many of the others, Brown didn't tell his story to investigators and it didn't surface until after Jesse Marcel began talking of the crash in 1978. Interestingly, one of the documents offered by Bean to prove her father served in Roswell was an order with several names on it including Jesse Marcel.

In a video-taped interview conducted in England on January 4, 1991, Bean said, "Dad used to tell us this story and he didn't tell us often."

He told his daughter, according to what she said on tape, that he "had to go out into the desert. All available men were grabbed and they all went out into the desert in trucks where a crashed saucer had come down."

Brown and another soldier whose name he never gave to his daughter, were pulled aside for guard duty. They were told not to look under the tarp in the truck, but Bean said, laughing, that the minute someone tells you that, the first thing you do is take a look. She said that he dad told her, "He and this other guy lifted up the tarpaulin or something…"

She said that she and her sister now argue about the number of alien creatures under the tarp. Bean says it was two, but her sister insists that it was three. No matter now. The point is that Brown described the creatures for them.

According to her, "He said they were smaller than us, not more than four foot tall… much larger heads than we have. Slanted eyes and [the skin was] yellowish."

Bean wondered if he had been scared but he said that he wasn't. He thought they had nice faces and they looked as if they would have been friendly. According to Bean, he repeated that as often as he told the story, which, over the years was fewer than a dozen times.

Bean, of course, sometimes pestered him for more information. After the release of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, in 1977, she asked him about the movie and how authentic it might be. He said that it was the biggest load of crap he'd ever seen and not like the real thing at all. When she tried to learn more, he told her, "That's all I can tell you. I can't tell you anymore."

The late Karl Pflock, in his book, *Roswell, Inconvenient Facts and the Will to Believe*, complained that Bean's story was second hand and that neither her sister nor her mother would comment on it. Pflock had to know that both the

mother and the other daughter had confirmed the tale because he had access to the video tapes of those 1991 interviews. He is right about this being a tale told by the daughters and wife of the man who lived it. There is nothing that can be done about that. By the time his name surfaced in the investigation, he had died from complications of various lung diseases, but it is not true that his wife or other daughter refused to talk.

Ada Brown added little to the complex tale told by Beverly Bean when she was interviewed on video tape in 1991. She merely confirmed that she too had heard about the crash over the years and that it was something from another world. She seemed a little uncomfortable sharing a secret left by her husband.

Bean's sister, Harriet Kercher, on January 4, 1991, was also interviewed on video tape. She had heard her father tell his tales a couple of times when Beverly was there, but there was one incident when Beverly was absent and her father gave her just a little more information.

Kercher, in her early teens said that she was with friends when she saw something flash by. Her friends saw it too, and then, in the distance, that something reappeared and seemed to be coming at them. Kercher said they were frightened by that shiny object but they weren't far from her house so they ran there, slamming the door behind them.

Her father met them and asked them why they seemed to be in such a panic. Kercher said that her father, after hearing the tale of the shining object, told her, "It's nothing to be frightened about."

The friends didn't understand, exactly, what he meant and he told them about the crashed flying saucer, saying that there were a few bodies on it. He provided few new details. He just made it clear that there was something about the creatures that suggested to him that they were not to be feared.

But, as Pflock said, these were second-hand reports and they could be the misinterpretation of the original story. If the witness saw anything it all, it was minor, such as Frankie Rowe seeing the piece of metallic debris that seemed to be something from another technology but might have been misunderstood by a twelve-year-old girl recovering from dental surgery. It is not proof, or even a suggestion of proof of something extraterrestrial.

First-Hand Witnesses

There are, however, some who have told first-hand stories and who were clearly in Roswell at the time of the UFO crash. One of those is Anna Willmon, who I met a number of years ago, just about a year or so before her death. She was a nice woman whose memory was not as sharp as it once had been. She remembered some details of her encounter with the Roswell crash, but some of her memories are at odds with what others recalled. The passage of time might have colored her memories as to exact details, but her story fits into, generally, the whole of the Roswell case.

She told me, during both a telephone and later a video-taped interview, that she had been in the Capitan Mountains west of Roswell with her first husband, W. I. Witcamp. As they returned from a long morning of work at a saw mill, they saw something shining off the highway and stopped to look for it. They were about twenty miles from Roswell along what is known as the Pine Lodge Road.

Together she and her husband moved through the brush until they came to an object shaped like an overturned washtub, which means that it was circular, or to stretch the point, saucer-like. She didn't think it was very large, maybe twelve to fifteen feet in diameter. She did see bodies of the flight crew, or "little guys" as she called them.

She said that the surface of the craft was very shiny, almost mirror-like. It was in two pieces. One of them sat up on four short, stubby legs and the other, looking as it if had been knocked from the top in the crash, was sitting a short distance away. She insisted on calling it a flying saucer and said that her husband had called it that repeatedly.

She didn't see much of the creatures because as she approached one, with the thought of turning it over, her husband stopped her. He was afraid of radiation or maybe disease. He didn't want her to touch them, or the remains of the craft.

She said that there were two bodies. One lying face down in the dirt and the other in the shade of some cedar trees, as if he had crawled over there before he died. She did say the skin looked like burnt rubber. It was a grayish-brown, she said, that was hard to define.

She said, "…that other one was laying up kinda towards this brush and the other was out back… like he had been flung out of the thing. And this other little guy looked like he'd got out and went off and laid down… And he wasn't very big. He was about as big as a little five year old kid. A little one."

She said that one of them was slim, skinny, with short arms and little hands and feet. The other one, the one she thought might have survived the crash only to die a little later, was chubby. His arms were short and his feet looked like human feet. His skin tones matched those of the other. The only real difference was that he was heavier than his fellow.

She said that they were dressed the same. They worn green shorts and

nothing else. She could see their backs and said that they looked normal. The skin was rubber-like. But she made it clear that these were small creatures. She mentioned that repeatedly.

She kept no diary and wrote no letters that mentioned the incident. Those she knew in 1947, who might be able to corroborate what she had seen were, in 1994, long dead. All she had now, was a tale that fit, generally, into the scheme of things told be other witnesses and like so many of those, she had no way to verify the information and no proof for what she said.

To be fair, the timing of her story and the location, only twenty miles from Roswell and north of the Pine Lodge Road doesn't fit with other information that has been developed. That she and her husband were there, in the late afternoon and prior to the arrival of the military doesn't really work either. She made it clear that they had gone to a ranch house to call the military. However, she did the best she could to answer the questions and seemed sincere in what she said.

She did say that they had talked to a colonel, but then her husband had a habit of calling any military man "colonel." She said that they had been cautioned not to talk about what they had seen, but it seemed to have been more of a request than it had been an order. Certainly, she didn't perceive it as a threat. Just a suggestion they not mention it to anyone else.

She didn't seem surprised by the reaction of the "colonel" either. He seemed to be aware of the situation, as if this was not the first such site that he had visited. This suggests that there might have been more than a single site where bodies were found, which does fit with information being developed today.

Martin Jorgenson

Martin Jorgenson walked into the International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell and mentioned, off-hand, casually, that he had been around Roswell in 1947. Don Burleson, a Roswell resident, happened to be in the museum at the time and, according to Burleson, "[I] tackled the guy (almost literally).

Sometimes called "Tex" by researchers, Jorenson said that he was a civilian working for the military and that he, along with his colleagues, stumbled onto the site while searching for a drone jet aircraft that had been tested on July 3 but that had crashed somewhere near Roswell. He, along with several NCOs had been told to find it.

As they neared the site, Jorgenson said that he saw pieces of bright silver metal. The metal appeared to be very light and later he would learn quite hard. He said that he saw some sort of writing, that is "hieroglyphics" on it.

The craft, he said, was stubby with curved-back wings. It was a small object, about twenty feet long and only about 12 to 14 feet wide. It had the look of some of the rocket ships in the old Buck Rogers serials.

There were three creatures. One was dead, one, though alive, was slumped over and the third was standing in the canopy looking at the men. They were all small, with a grayish, greenish skin, and dark slanted eyes. They had large heads and small noses.

Unlike Willmon, but like others, Jorgenson said they were wearing uniforms, or what might have been uniforms, but he wasn't sure. He didn't notice their hands or their feet.

Jorgenson said that he left the site shortly after the recovery began. He returned to the base and there he was warned not to talk about what he had seen. He said that he had to sign some kind of an oath or a non-disclosure agreement. He thought, by the time he said anything to Burleson and others, that the agreement had expired.

There is one real concern about this story. Jorgenson said that he was assigned to the base where this jet drone project was located and it was a test flight that went astray. There are no records to corroborate this. And his discussion of using radar to track it is also a worry, given the nature of the terrain and the locations of the various radars in 1947. Had this test gone astray from White Sands Proving Grounds or from Alamogordo Army Air Field, the radars there wouldn't have been able to track it much below 10,000 feet, which meant it could have crashed almost anywhere. The search probably would have been conducted by aircraft and not guys in a jeep.

Thomas Gonzales

Another first-hand witness who can provide little in the way of corroboration is Thomas Gonzales, a sergeant who told John Price and Don Ecker that he had seen the bodies of the alien creatures. Like so many of the others, Gonzales was not a member of the Military Police or any other of the law enforcement units assigned to the base. He was a sergeant in the transportation section, but, as Bean mentioned, they had swept through the base looking for all available men. Gonzales was one of those.

Skeptics, in fact, have made much of the fact that some of these witnesses were not assigned to either the security or military police units on the base. But then, Bean said, the sergeants had come through looking for anyone they could impress into service. Such things have happened before in the Army and it fits with the general concept that every soldier has basic training that would allow him (or in today's world, her) to be used in a variety of ways, as the situation dictated. All basic trainees learn how to stand a proper guard.

Gonzales described the craft as looking more like an airfoil than it did like a saucer. He said that the bodies were like "little men" but not like the "greys" of the more recent abduction literature.

Gonzales, when I interviewed him, was reluctant to talk and I fear that my style in this particular interview was more forceful than it needed to be. I was attempting to verify his credentials, though his picture in the Roswell Yearbook certainly put him at the base at the right time. And I wanted to make sure that the information that I had was correct. It had been filtered a couple of times, and sometimes during the passing of information, it becomes distorted. That didn't seem to be the case here.

Unfortunately, Gonzales was not an articulate man, and when I talked to him a dozen years ago, he was 78. His son said that his father had been telling the story for years, long before the information about Roswell became well known. Like Beverly Bean and her sister Harriet Kercher, Gonzales' son verified a date in the 1960s as being one of the first times he'd heard his father mention the Roswell case.

Gonzales also mentioned that he had trouble with the military after he was involved there. He suggested he was transferred quickly and in the process, lost some personal property. The rumor is that many of those involved were quickly transferred from the base. However, the unit history provides information about transfers into and out of the 509th. The records seem to indicate that there was not an appreciable increase in transfers in July or August. The numbers remained consistent with those of earlier months. This does not mean, however, that specific people weren't transferred out.

The Military Police at Roswell

There are some former members of the military police at Roswell who have come forward with stories about the crash and the alien creatures. One such man I'll call Sergeant Johnson which is his real name, but since Johnson is the second most common last name in the United States and since his picture does not appear in the Yearbook, it will be difficult to trace him. I will say that I am in possession of records, obtained through the Army (or I probably should say here that John Carpenter obtained directly from the Army)that show SGT Johnson was stationed at Roswell at the proper time, and that he was a member of the 1395th MP Company, though he was not a sergeant then.

Johnson was the acting corporal of the guard when they received a telephone call that said there was a crash up near Corona. Johnson was told to take a detail of four men but ended up taking about a dozen to secure the site. They drove to Corona, talked to the police and a few people to get directions and then drove out to the crash site. Johnson said that the craft had impacted and was standing at a twenty to thirty degree angle from the ground. He said, sort of confirming what Anna Willmon said, that the craft was about twelve to fourteen feet in diameter and that it was very light, no more than half a ton or maybe 1200 pounds. Reflecting on it, he now suspects the craft was made of some kind of composite material.

According to what he told John Carpenter, there were three dead creatures and one that was alive. In a variation of a theme, Johnson said that the aliens were wearing "what looked like a complete fabric covering over their bodies." It was silver colored.

He said the creatures were short, just over four feet tall and maybe weighed ninety pounds. Their heads were covered by some kind of a hood but he could see two oval-shaped eyes, two holes where the nose would be, only lower on the face. He said that there might have been glass or plastic or something covering the eyes. They were a dark color that was so black that it looked to be slightly blue (This, I suspect, was an attempt to validate the information provided by Gerald Anderson, discussed in a later chapter).

He said that the suit covered everything so that he couldn't see the skin or if there was hair on the head. He didn't see enough, or remember enough to described hands or feet. He also said he saw nothing that resembled blood. I suppose it's unnecessary to point out that his description of the clothing does not match, even closely, that described by Anna Willmon.

Johnson said that he, along with the men he had taken with him, were the only people there the first night. He said that they didn't sleep, not with the alien creature walking around, though at some point it did lay down. He said that he wasn't sure if the alien had gone to sleep or not but thought it had remained awake because it seemed to be moving restlessly all the time.

According to Johnson, the bodies, and the living creature were taken from the site early the next morning. According to Johnson, the bodies, and later the craft, were taken to Wright Field, now Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. He had no direct knowledge of this, but it was what he had been told, or what he learned later.

Once his tour at the site was over, he, along with the others, were taken back to Roswell. Johnson said that he hadn't told his first wife about the crash because he was under orders not to. Under questioning it became clear that he was referring to a fairly standard warning given to all soldiers who hold a top secret clearance. Sharing information with those not authorized to have it could result in a big fine and up to twenty years in prison.

He did say, however, that every so often he would get a call reminding him of his obligations. They would tell him that he knew the rules and that he had children.

Evaluating the Tales

If we look at these stories with a skeptical eye, we would have to note that a number of them are second hand. We can't interview those who witnessed the event, but must now rely on the statements of friends and family. Such statements are open to interpretation and misunderstanding. Even members of the same family don't agree on all the details. Beverly Bean believes her father said there were two creatures on the site but her sister remembers that he said three.

Of course it can be suggested that such a disagreement in the details is of little overall significance. What is important is that all these witnesses suggest that bodies were recovered and at a minimum, one of the creatures survived long enough for the Army to arrive.

There are differences in the descriptions of the alien creatures, but again, we are working from the memories of men and women who are very old or from what family members claim they were told. And, it is necessary to point out that some of these discrepancies can be explained by points of view. One soldier saw three alien creatures and another saw four. It could be that the first simply didn't observe the fourth based on where he was and what he was doing at the time. It could also mean, as has been suggested by others, that there were more than one site. Skeptics make much of the numbers game, but in the end, it is a trivial detail that actually means nothing.

No, the important point, from a skeptical point of view is that Robbins, Rowe, Bean and Kercher, are relating what others told them about the crash. They did not witness it themselves and there is no documentation to back up their claims. Yes, we can, and have verified, that the soldiers who told the original stories were assigned to Roswell, or in Rowe's case, was a fireman in Roswell, but all that does is give their fathers or husbands the opportunity to see what he claimed to have seen. It doesn't prove the story valid.

So, we move onto the first-hand accounts. All four were elderly when they told their stories. All were assigned to the base at Roswell in some capacity, or in the case of Willmon, lived in the area. Gonzales is in the Yearbook that Walter Haut produced in 1947 and Army Records Center supplied documentation that clearly puts Johnson there at the same time and, more importantly, shows his assignment to the military police company. Only Jorgenson's connection is troublesome.

However, in each case, the witness appeared long after all the initial interest in the case. Gonzales was in Roswell and walked into the UFO Enigma Museum to talk with John Price. Jorgenson was in Roswell and walked into the International UFO Museum. Willmon's name was given to me by another source, who also told me that her story had once been more robust and interesting. Johnson said that he'd had both heart attacks and a stroke so that his memory wasn't as good as it once had been. To complicate matters, Stan Friedman sent

Johnson copies of his reports and books before Johnson was properly interviewed the first time so that a case can be made that Johnson's memory was contaminated (again, this idea of the dark blue eyes comes to mind).

But here is the other thing. All these witnesses were either low-ranking enlisted men or members of the civilian world outside the base. All tell similar stories, meaning they talk of a crashed saucer with the details matching in many respects, and all suggest that one or more of the creatures survived.

I, at one time, tried to find all the members of the 1395th MP Company. I went through the Yearbook and then matched the names to telephone numbers thanks to computer programs and free white pages sites. One of those I found was Leo Spear, who I interviewed in June 1994.

Spear himself hadn't gone out but he was in the barracks when some of the others came in. He told me, "I can't remember if it was the evening shift or if it was the next morning when they came in with a cock and bull story [Here the skeptics could lift a quote out of context to change the whole meaning of what Spear said]… these guys come in but they said the truck come in and they brought in some stuff from a UFO… that crashed north of Roswell. And we thought they was BS-ing until we read the article about it…"

The timing seems to suggest that those MP s who went out to guard the site had gone out the day before the article appeared in the newspaper. They had come back late that evening when Spear and the others thought they were making up the tale. When they saw the article in the next day's newspaper, they changed their tunes.

Of course the Provost Marshal, Major Edwin Easley, who would have been the top cop on the post at the time never told me much about the crash when I interviewed him. He did suggest that something extraterrestrial had fallen and made a cryptic comment to his family just before he died. He said, "Oh, the creatures." Certainly not much in the way of confirmation but just as clearly not a rejection of the idea that something alien had crashed.

There is one other aspect that should be mentioned here because the skeptics will certainly notice it. Anna Willmon talked of a site much closer to Roswell than Johnson talked about. Jesse Marcel said nothing about alien creatures but did talk of a large field of strange metallic debris. What this suggests is that all these people are talking of a single event, but one that they witnessed on different sites. Willmon's description suggests something more akin to an escape pod than an interstellar craft. And that might just explain some of these discrepancies.

So, here's where we are at the end of the day. A number of men who were in a position to know about the crash gave family members information about it. They discussed bodies and they discussed a survivor. They gave descriptions of the crash. Their stories match, in a general way, but there are some discrepancies. We have virtually no documentation to support the tales of the crash, but we do have corroboration from a large number of others who were there.

In the end, it's up to each person to decide what level he or she wants to

assign this evidence. While the second-hand testimony, in most courts in most cases would not be allowed (though with Melvin Brown it could be considered a dying declaration), we have a body of first-hand testimony that would be allowed. Is it enough to "prove" that something extraterrestrial fell at Roswell? Given the numbers, I believe it is.

Chapter Three: Colonel Blanchard's Staff

There are those who will tell you that the Roswell crash did not happen because pilots who were assigned to the base in July, 1947 knew nothing about it. They will suggest that if anything like that had happened, they would know about it. Kent Jeffrey, who at one time was convinced that the Roswell crash was of extraterrestrial origin, now believes that the mundane, that is a Project Mogul balloon, explains the incident and the strange debris. He believes this because many of the former pilots and officers of the 509th Bomb Group he interviewed told him that nothing had happened.

About this, Jeffrey wrote, in an article published in *The MUFON Journal* in June, 1997:

The 509th Bomb Group was based at Roswell in 1947. In September 1996, I had the privilege of attending the reunion of the 509th Bomb Group in Tucson, Arizona, as a guest of General Bob Scott and his wife Terry…

At the time of the 509th reunion, I had not yet seen all the pertinent 1948 military documents and still held an inkling of hope that there might be something to the Roswell event. Prior to the reunion, I had sent out over 700 mailings to members of the reunion

group in the hope of finding additional witnesses to the mysterious debris. The result was a disappointment — only two calls, neither of which was of any real help. Both of the men who called were former 509th flight engineers. One had had a very interesting UFO sighting from the ramp at Kirtland Air Force Base. The other recalled seeing a lot of extra activity around one of the hangars at Roswell near the time of the 1947 incident.

At the reunion in Tucson, I was introduced to several of the pilots who were at Roswell in 1947 and who promptly told me, in no uncertain terms, that the crashed saucer event never occurred, period. I did not get the impression at the time, nor have I ever since, that any of these men are engaged in some kind of incredible 50-year-long massive coverup or that they were putting on an act or facade to throw me off track…

The men who were at Roswell during July 1947 feel very strongly that absolutely nothing out of the ordinary happened and that the whole matter is patently ridiculous… To them, the crashed-saucer nonsense, along with all the hullabaloo and conspiracy theories surrounding it, makes a mockery of and is an insult to the 509th Bomb Group and its men.

One of the 509th pilots I met at the reunion, Jack Ingham, has since become a friend and has helped me considerably in contacting additional members of the group who were stationed at Roswell during the time of the incident. When I first met Jack in Tucson, he spared no punches in letting me know exactly what he thought about the crashed-flying saucer matter. Others at the reunion told me that if something like the crash of a UFO had really happened at Roswell, Jack Ingham

would have known. Jack spent a total of 16 years with the 509th Bomb Group — February 1946 to July 1962. He retired from the Air Force as a lieutenant colonel in January 1971.

I have spoken with a total of 15 B-29 pilots and 2 B-29 navigators, all of whom were stationed at Roswell Army Air Field in July 1947. Most of them heard nothing about the supposed crashed-saucer incident until years later, after all the publicity started. The few men who did recall hearing something about the incident at the time of its occurrence said that the inside word was that the debris was from a downed balloon of some kind and that there was no more than "one wheelbarrow full." Not one single man had any direct knowledge of a crashed saucer or of any kind of unusual material. Even more significantly, in all of their collective years with the 509th Bomb Group, not one of these men had ever encountered any other individual who had such knowledge.

As Jack Ingham and others pointed out, the 509th was a very close-knit group and there was no way an event as spectacular as the recovery of a crashed-alien spaceship from another world could have happened at their base without their having known about it. Despite the fact that they, individually, may not have been directly involved with the recovery operation, and despite the pervasiveness of the "need to know" philosophy in the military, these men maintained that there was absolutely no way that something of such magnitude and so earthshaking would not have been communicated among the members of the group — especially within the inner circle of the upper echelon of B-29 pilots and navigators — all of whom had top-secret security clearances…

Most of the men of the 509th Bomb Group were primarily WWII veterans in their mid- to late twenties. (Colonel Blanchard, the commander of the group, was, himself, only 31.) Military regulations notwithstanding, human nature and common sense have to be factored into the equation. Such an occurrence — the most significant and dramatic event in recorded history — would surely have been discussed by these men, at least among themselves….

This is quite dramatic testimony and on the surface, it is quite persuasive as well as devastating. It overlooks one important point and that is that Colonel Thomas DuBose, chief of staff of the Eighth Air Force, told researchers that orders had come down from Strategic Air Command headquarters, then in Washington, D.C., and specifically from Major General Clements McMullen, that the officers were not to talk about this among themselves. DuBose told researchers during a video-taped August 1990 interview, “Nobody, and I must stress this, no one was to discuss this with their wife, me with Ramey, with anyone. The matter as far as we’re concerned, it was closed as of that moment.”

That does, explain, to an extent, why Jeffrey had been unable to find pilots who remembered the event as real. No one talked about it, not only because it had been classified, but because they had been specifically ordered not to. Such an order would change the equation as described by Jeffrey.

But the question that must be asked here is “What did the members of

Blanchard's staff say?" Not the pilots and navigators of this close knit organization and not the men who thought they were connected into the closed loop at the top, but the men who ran the organization. These were the men who were on the inside with Blanchard, and if anyone knew about it, these would be the men who did.

Blanchard had a full staff running from the A-1 (or S1 in ground Army staff rosters) or personnel officer, through an A-4, or supply, an adjutant and both a deputy commander and an executive officer. The men holding these positions would work directly with the commander. They would be responsible for parts of the investigation of the alien craft, if one had fallen.

It might be important to note that, along with the primary staff, there would be others such as the provost marshal who would have some knowledge of the crash. These were also staff officers but ones whose organization would not require a daily meeting with the commander, but who would have had to be on the inside to carry out the job.

Major Jesse Marcel

When the investigation began back in 1978, when both Stan Friedman and Len Stringfield learned about Major Jesse Marcel, no one else from the 509th had mentioned anything about the UFO crash. Marcel provided the initial information that set off the investigations and Marcel was the Intelligence Officer, the A-2, on the staff. He was in a position to know.

As we have seen, Marcel went out to the Debris Field with Sheridan Cavitt and Mack Brazel. Marcel said they arrived too late in the day to go out to the Debris Field because it would be too dark to see anything useful. Instead they spent the night in a one room building just north of the field. Marcel said they ate cold beans and Cavitt denies that he was in Roswell, or went to the field or stayed in the shack. I note this again because it provides us with a glimpse of who was saying what about the crash and who was attempting to thwart the investigation.

The next morning, according to an interview conducted by the late Bob Pratt of the *National Enquirer* and given to anyone who asked for a copy (such was Pratt's generosity), Brazel prepared to led them to the Debris Field. He saddled two horses, but Marcel had never ridden a horse. Cavitt and Brazel took the horses and Marcel drove the jeep. Interestingly, it was Cavitt who gave me this little nugget of information.

From the top of a ridge line, they could see the shallow valley where the debris was scattered. Marcel told researchers that it was scattered over an area of about three-quarters of a mile long and couple of hundred feet wide. He is also quoted as saying that the debris was scattered over about a square mile. He said, "I'd never seen anything like that. I didn't know what I was picking up."

Maybe I should note here, although we'll explore it more, that the modern Air Force answer of a balloon array from the then classified Project Mogul, does not work. The size of the Debris Field is simply too large. The balloon array that will be tapped as the culprit, according to the documentation available, was not large enough, nor did it contain the right types of material, no matter what the Air Force would like us to believe today.

Marcel would describe the material as being as thin as newsprint and yet so strong that a sledgehammer couldn't dent it. There was a thin, foil-like material that was like the foil that came in a pack of cigarettes, according to Marcel, some small Ibeams and "other stuff that looked very much like parchment that didn't burn."

Once he had identified the field, there was nothing more for Brazel to do, and he left the officers there. Marcel and Cavitt spent the rest of the day there examining the debris, checking for ground markings and trying to learn all they could. Remember, however, that Cavitt told Air Force investigators in the 1990s, he knew immediately what it was. He just never said anything about that to

Marcel, if we are to believe him now. Rather than say it was a balloon and leave, he stayed with Marcel as Marcel attempted to identify the wreckage and spent hours on the Debris Field.

Marcel said, "We loaded up all this stuff in the carryall and we got back kind of late, but I wasn't satisfied. I went back. I told Cavitt, you drive this vehicle back to the base [meaning the carryall] and I'll go back out there and pick up as much as I can put in the car."

According to what Marcel would later tell investigators, "We picked up a very minor portion of it [meaning the debris]."

With the car full and the sun setting, Marcel headed toward the base. Then, in what would become a controversial move, he drove to the house, arriving, according to his son, Jesse Jr., now a retired doctor and National Guard colonel with a tour in Iraq, about two in the morning. Marcel Sr., would later say that he was so impressed with the debris that he wanted his wife, and especially his son, to see it before he took it out of the base. He didn't care that he had to awaken them.

Inside the house, they spread some of the debris on the kitchen floor, trying to fit pieces together as if it were some kind of gigantic jigsaw puzzle. Debris was spread from the stove on the left, across the floor to the sink and the refrigerator on the other side of the room.

Marcel, Sr. said, "I'd never seen anything like that. I didn't know what we were picking up. I still don't know. As of this day I don't know… It could not have been part of an aircraft, not part of any kind of weather balloon or experimental balloon… I've seen rockets… sent up at White Sands Testing Grounds. It definitely was not part of an aircraft, not a missile or rocket."

Looking at the debris in the kitchen, especially the small, delicate I-beams, Viaud Marcel, Jesse's wife noticed some sort of writing or symbols on them. Years later, Jesse Jr. would tell me that the writing was a deep purple and seemed to be embossed. One of the symbols resembled, in a very gross way, a seal balancing a ball on its nose.

When they finished looking at the debris, Marcel loaded it back into the car and drove it out to the base. He would later escort some of it to Fort Worth where he would be photographed with a weather balloon in General Ramey's office. Marcel would later tell television reporter Johnny Mann that the debris in the picture was not the same stuff that he had found on the ranch.

Other Members of Blanchard's Staff

But Marcel was not the only officer on Blanchard's staff to be interviewed about the events of July, 1947. When I entered into the investigation, a surprising number of the top officers were still around. I had the chance to speak with many of them about the case, and almost all of them had some positive memories, unlike the pilots that Kent Jeffrey interviewed.

Joe Briley, who became the operations officer for the 509th, told me that in July 1947 he was a squadron commander and he thought that Lt. Col. Hopkins was the operations officer. Sometime later they swapped jobs. Briley said that he knew very little about the crash, though he did say that Blanchard had gone out to the crash site, which, with something of this importance would be expected by the commander.

Briley also told me that he had heard the stories about the flying saucer crash, "And then the story was changed and hushed up immediately. As soon as the people from Washington arrived." This in direct contradiction to what Jeffrey heard from all those pilots that he interviewed.

Briley also said that he and Blanchard had been close friends and that Blanchard has been his instructor pilot years earlier when he went through flight school. He added, "In retrospect, I don't think Butch [Blanchard] was stupid enough to call a weather balloon something else."

But that was all Briley knew. He said that Blanchard had gone out to the site and that Blanchard was too smart to get wrapped up in the weather balloon mistake. Briley provides nothing of real importance to the investigation other than to suggest that Jeffrey's interviews with the pilots might just have missed something important.

Patrick Saunders, in July 1947, was the base adjutant and a member of the primary staff. When I first interviewed him, he was just out of the hospital after a heart attack. He joked around about the little green men and suggested that he knew nothing of real value. The impression he gave, at that time, was that this flying saucer business was a joke.

Asked if he could remember any of the rumors and which of those might have some truth to them, he said, simply, "I can't specify anything." Saunders, it seemed, was not a witness to the story, or rather, would prefer that I believed that.

But later, when both *UFO Crash at Roswell* and *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell* were published, he bought copies. In fact, he bought lots of copies, because, according to what he wrote on the first page of *The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell*, that was the truth.

The quotation, in his own handwriting, on the first page of that book is, "Here's the truth and I still haven't told anybody anything!"

In the months before he died, he confided in a number of close and life long friends that suddenly, the officers of the 509th Bomb Group were confronted with

a technology greater than that of Earth. They, meaning the creatures in the flying saucers, had control of the sky. The Air Force was powerless against them. And they, the members of the Army Air Forces, had just seen the power of control of the sky. It was one of the factors that defeated the enemies in the Second World War.

Saunders went on, telling people that military officials had no idea about what their, the pilots of the craft, intentions might be. Their technology was more advanced than that of the United States. Top military leaders didn't know if the alien beings were a threat so the government was reluctant to release anything about them.

What's important here is that Saunders did not share this information with UFO researchers or outsiders. He kept it to himself, telling close friends and family only after the story had been told by so many others in so many other arenas. It can't be said that he was seeking fame or fortune by creating a tale to put himself in the limelight. He told only his closest friends and family.

Saunders mentioned to those same friends and family that he planned on making a video-taped statement to be released upon his death. Unfortunately he didn’t have the time to complete that tape. All that is left is the single statement he placed in the book and a few comments made to his friends and family.

Not All Are Positive, Others Are

The other senior member of Blanchard's staff who expressed any opinion on this was Lieutenant Colonel Robert Barrowclough, who, in 1947 was the executive officer. Like the other members of Colonel Blanchard's staff, he had served in the Second World War, eventually commanding a B-29 squadron on Tinian in the Mariannas Islands in the Pacific Theater. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal and the Asiatic and Pacific Campaign Medals.

During interviews with other members of the 509th Bomb Group, including Robert Porter, Barrowclough was identified as one of the pilots who had flown a special mission out of Roswell carrying the strange metallic debris. Porter had suggested that he had flown with Major Marcel, on the July 8 trip to Fort Worth. Porter was of the opinion that Barrowclough had been the aircraft commander on that flight. The problem here is that the records show Barrowclough was not in Roswell when the excitement began. In fact, according to the Morning Reports, documents required of every military unit that shows who is where and who is ready for duty each day, Barrowclough returned from leave on July 9. In other words, Barrowclough was not there to take the July 8 flight.

Of all the top officers at Roswell in 1947 interviewed by researchers, Barrowclough is the only one to suggest that nothing extraordinary happened. In a June 15, 1997 handwritten note to Kent Jeffrey, Barrowclough noted, "Thank you for the copy of the *UFO Journal* on the Roswell myth. Maybe some of those crack pots will quit calling me up and say I'm covering up a deep gov't secret. You pretty well covered the subject." It was signed only with his initials.

But, if we expand our investigation to the secondary staff, we can develop more information. Edwin Easley, in July 1947, was the provost marshal at the Roswell Army Air Field which meant he was responsible for security and police functions. Asked during a first conversation if he was the right man, meaning he had been the provost marshal in July 1947 at Roswell, he told me that he was. When I asked specifically about the UFO crash, he said, without hesitation, "I can't talk about it."

There are those in the UFO community today and there are skeptics who insist that Easley suggested the topic was classified because he didn't want to talk about it to me or to any others who might call. Skeptics have suggested the quickest way to get rid of UFO investigators was to say that the events were classified and couldn't be discussed. In reality, the quickest way would have been to suggest that nothing was known about the crash. If he suggested it was classified, it would have started a campaign to learn exactly what he knew that was of a classified nature.

Easley said, repeatedly during that first audio-taped telephone interview, that he had been sworn to secrecy. He couldn't talk about these events. Not that the

events didn't happen, not that it was all invention, delusion and imagination, but that he was sworn to secrecy. He couldn't talk about it. He would later say that he had promised the president he wouldn't talk about it. Here, I believe he told a representative of the president rather than speaking with Truman himself. To Easley it would have been the same thing as actually giving the president a face-to-face promise.

In a February 1991 interview Easley provided the details of the case that he could. For example, he said that Mack Brazel had been held at the guest house on the base. Mack Brazel, remember, had told friends and family that he had been in jail, put there by the military. Easley's statement seemed to corroborate that story. And, while being in the guest house is not exactly the same as being in jail, if you are not allowed to leave and there is a guard on the door, it is, basically, the same thing.

But the most important aspect of that conversation with Easley was the end of it. Here was a man who clearly knew something about the details of the Roswell case. He had been sworn to secrecy according to what he had repeatedly said himself. He didn't want to talk about it and his answers were often short and sometimes cryptic. For example, when I asked if he thought UFO researchers were following the right path, he asked, "What do you mean?"

I said, "We believed the craft found was of extraterrestrial origin."

He then said, "Let me put it this way. That's not the wrong path."

Here is a man who retired from the military as a full colonel. In 1947 he was a major and in charge of the military police at the Roswell Army Air Field. He went from Roswell to a long career in the Air Force. He certainly wasn't the type of individual to invent such a tale. In fact, had he not been sought out and interviewed, his role in the Roswell events would never have been known. He didn't come forward to find his place in the spotlight or see himself on television. Because he was so reluctant to talk, his testimony suggesting the craft was of extraterrestrial origin is extremely important.

The problem for skeptics, and frankly some of the believers, is that I didn't get Easley on tape saying this. The situation at the time, I was at the CUFOS office and they told me to make some telephone calls while they completed their business meeting, meant I had the use of a telephone and didn't have to pay for it. I called Easley to verify some things. It was in the course of this conversation that he verified the idea that the craft had been extraterrestrial.

Others have told me, had that happened to them, they would have gone out to buy a tape recorder and called him back. I didn't think there was any such pressure. Easley had always been cordial with me and there was no reason to believe that I wouldn't have a chance to talk with him again.

It was also about this time that we heard that Easley, asked by his granddaughter about the UFO crash, said very little about it. He replied to her, "Oh, the creatures."

Mark Rodeghier, the scientific director of CUFOS, wanted to interview

Easley when he went to Fort Worth later that year. I attempted to arrange it, believing that, if nothing else, Rodeghier would be able to verify Easley's statement. Easley, unfortunately, became ill, too ill to meet with investigators. He died not long after that.

I did try to get some confirmation and did call a couple of times. Eventually I received a very nice letter from one of Easley's daughters explaining how sick her father was and that he mother, under stress of this terminal illness had decided I was a government agent trying to "get" something on her husband. Not wanting to cause the family additional grief, I dropped the matter.

But there is some corroborative testimony for Easley. Joe Stefula, a researcher living in New Jersey tracked down another of the officers who had been assigned to the MP company at Roswell in July 1947. The man, former 1st Lt. Chester Barton told Stefula, as he told me later, that Major Easley had told him to go out to the crash site. He said, "The military police had guards there."

Describing the site for Stefula, and later for me, Barton said that it took them about forty-five minutes to get out to the site, confirming a detail from Lewis Rickett. He said that they hit a checkpoint, confirming still another detail.

The area was filled with parts of the craft and there was a burned area. The best description that Barton could offer was that the debris looked like the remains of a crashed aircraft. He did mention that some of the military police were using Geiger counters and that they did detect some radiation in certain spots.

Barton said that there weren't any large pieces of it and no signs of a propeller or engines. He said that it appeared as if the object had bounced two or three times before it came to rest.

When he arrived, according to what he told Stefula, there wasn't much left to see. Just the burned areas and a lot of little junk that Barton thought would be hauled away to the junk yard.

Later, he would read about the weather balloon explanation. He said, "I remember people saying it was a weather balloon but I didn't pay much attention to that story."

To be fair, it must be noted that Barton said, "Based on what I saw, I still believe it was a B-29. I heard very little about the bodies. They were taken to the hospital, but I didn't see them. I know it was a hush-hush deal and Easley told us to keep our mouth's shut."

Barton followed his orders and remained quiet, not even telling his wife about those events, until Stefula called him. To him it was nothing more than an aircraft accident and had nothing to do with balloons.

It should be noted here that nearly everyone who has researched the crash looked into the possibility of an aircraft accident. None of us found anything like that. The Air Force, which would have much better access to such records did the same thing with the same results. There were no aircraft accidents, not military, not civilian and not experimental that would account for the strange debris.

So Easley's testimony, corroborated by multiple sources, and especially that from February 1991, is extremely important to understanding the nature of the Roswell case. Had the object found been of mundane configuration, had it merely been an aircraft of some new design, or even a weather balloon that had been launched as part of a top secret project, Easley would have known simply because of who he was and what he did at Roswell. He wouldn't have been sworn to secrecy, and he certainly wouldn't have said that it was something extraterrestrial in origin if that hadn't been the case.

I do fill obligated to make one additional comment here. I have said that the testimony is corroborated and that is true. Each of the things I have reported were heard by others and who verified those comments to still others. This however, is just corroboration that Easley did make the original statements and certainly does nothing to underscore the veracity of those statements. Documentation for that would be nice, but we just don't have anything written down for us to examine.

What this really says is that the majority of the staff officers we were able to interview confirmed, as best they could, that something extraterrestrial happened at Roswell. Yes, there were those who said that nothing happened, or that they were unaware of anything extraordinary, but these minority voices would lose simply because they are in the minority.

More Flight Crew Testimony

Kent, in his article, said that he had talked to a number of pilots who were stationed in Roswell in July 1947 but who had heard nothing about the crash. To him this evidence was persuasive. There, however, reports from other pilots who did know something about the case.

As has happened so often in this story, a witness who had something important to say died before he could be interviewed on tape so we are left with the second-hand accounts of family. Such is the case of Oliver "Pappy" Henderson, who would tell close friends and his family about flying some of the wreckage on to Wright Field.

Sappho Henderson, a very nice lady, would tell researcher Len Stringfield first, and then repeat for me on video tape, about her husband's involvement in the case. She said that they had been to the grocery store when he picked up one of the tabloid newspapers (probably the *National Enquirer*)and showed it to her. He told her at that time, according to what she said to me, "He said, 'Well, I've been wanting to tell you this for years… I guess now it's not top secret if they're putting it in the paper.' And he said the story is true."

Although he didn't explain to his wife how he had happen to see the bodies of the alien creatures, he did say that the drawings accompanying the article were accurate. These were drawings of small creatures with big heads and large eyes. Slender creatures that seemed to be frail.

Other than the nature of the cargo, and the events surrounding its collection, there was nothing spectacular about the flight. It was just a routine mission to Wright Field.

Later, in 1982, at a reunion of soldiers who had flown in the Second World War, Henderson told his old flight crew about the Roswell case. Stan Friedman managed to interview one of the men who told him, "It was in his hotel room that he told us the story of the UFO and about his part. All we were told by Pappy is that he flew the plane to Wright Field. He definitely mentioned the bodies, but I don't recall any details except they were small and different…"

There were crewmen who also talked about flights out of Roswell with either the bodies or wreckage. Len Stringfield was in communication with Lloyd Thompson. He mentioned the names of the men on the crew with him and these included Robert Slusher.

Slusher told me, on video tape, that he, and his crew had been on the skeet range on orders of the squadron operations officer, Edgar Skelly, who told the aircraft commander that a special mission might be coming up. Slusher said that all of them had heard rumors that a flying saucer and bodies had been found. Once it was decided the flight would be made, the crew was sent out to pre-flight the B-29, but were rushed through it.

Slusher said that they were ordered to the pit where the bombs were

normally kept where they were met by armed guards. They loaded a crate (and Slusher once gave the dimensions which would have been too large for the forward bomb bay which caused skeptics to reject his story) and took off for Fort Worth.

They never climbed above eight thousand feet, which was unusual, and when they landed in Fort Worth, they were met by six people. According to Slusher in a signed affidavit, "They took possession of the crate. The crate was loaded on a flatbed weapons carrier and hauled off… The sixth person was an undertaker who had been a classmate on our flight, Lt. Felix Martucci."

Slusher said that on the return flight, they flew above 20,000 feet. He said, "After returning to Roswell, we realized that what was in the crate was classified. There were rumors that they [the crate] had carried debris from the crash."

But the Roswell case is nothing if not consistent with its inconsistencies. I tried to talk to Felix Martucci, as did a number of other people. Although I reached an answering machine several times, I never spoke to him. Len Stringfield did, and Martucci hung up, saying, "No. No. No." The next time I called, the answering machine was gone.

So Kent Jeffrey, in his search for military witnesses, had little luck at the reunions. He talked to pilots who said that nothing happened because they knew nothing about it. They believed that if something had, they would have learned about it because of contact with their friends and fellow pilots. But the truth is that highly classified events, such as these would have been, would not be discussed casually amongst the pilots and now, more than fifty years after the fact, we have found people who will talk about it.

Are the statements by Jesse Marcel, Patrick Saunders, Pappy Henderson and the others strong enough to overcome the negative statements of the men who freely admit they weren't involved and therefore have little to contribute? That is the question that each person must answer for him or herself, but we must all remember that there are those who do talk, on a first-hand level, of their involvement in the case and they are people who are who they say they are. They were in Roswell at the right time, they have been corroborated by their fellows who were involved, and many of them were found by researchers rather than coming forward for their minutes in the spotlight. Their stories are persuasive.

Chapter Four: The "Higher-Ups"

We all know, to a fairly large degree, what happened in Roswell after Mack Brazel showed up with the strange metallic debris. But what went on at the higher headquarters and what were the reactions of the men at those headquarters? Does it provide us with any sort of clue?

In 1947 Colonel (later Brigadier General) Thomas J. DuBose was the Chief of Staff of the Eighth Air Force stationed at the Fort Worth Army Air Field (later Carswell Air Force Base). According to a statement signed in front of a state of Florida notary public, Colonel DuBose received a telephone call from Major General Clements McMullen, the Deputy Commander of the Strategic Air Command who asked about the events that had occurred outside of Roswell. DuBose, in turn, called Blanchard in Roswell and ordered him to send the material, in a sealed container, to him at Fort Worth. It was never made clear if this was some of the stuff that was brought to Roswell by Brazel, or if it was some of the debris recovered by Marcel. The timing, based on what DuBose said during his video-taped interview made in August 1991, would indicate that it was some of the Brazel debris.

A plane was dispatched from Roswell. DuBose asked the base commander at Fort Worth, Colonel Al Clark, to take the material from Fort Worth to Washington, D.C. and delivery it to McMullen. DuBose then called McMullen, who told DuBose that he, McMullen, would send the material on to Benjamin Chidlaw at Wright Field. DuBose identified Childlaw as the commanding general of the Air Materiel Command, but in reality, in July 1947, Nathan F. Twining was the commander.

DuBose also identified the material photographed in Ramey's office as part of a weather balloon. DuBose said that the weather balloon explanation was a cover story designed to divert attention of the press. Please note here that we have testimony from a highranking officer who was in the office at the time, telling us that the debris displayed there was a weather balloon. He would make it clear that this debris was not the strange stuff that had been found in New Mexico.

In interviews conducted in the early 1990s, and video taped for inclusion in the Fund for UFO Research's video library, DuBose elaborated. He added that McMullen ordered Ramey to cover up the whole thing. They, meaning those at a higher command level, wanted to "put out the fire" as quickly as they could.

Speaking of the orders he received from McMullen, DuBose said, "He (McMullen) called me and said that I was…there was talk of some elements that had been found on the ground outside Roswell, New Mexico…that the debris or elements were to be placed in a suitable container and Blanchard was to see that they were delivered…they were placed in a suitable container and Al Clark, the base commander at Carswell [Fort Worth Army Air Field] would pick them up and hand deliver them to McMullen in Washington. Nobody, and I must stress

this, no one was to discuss with their wives, me with Ramey, with anyone. The matter as far as we're concerned was closed as of that moment."

DuBose then called Blanchard in Roswell and said, "…and told him that there is this material his S-2 [Marcel] found in the desert and I said this is to be put in a suitable container by this major and you are to see that it is sealed, put in your little command aircraft, and flown by a proper courier [meaning an officer or NCO who is cleared to carry classified material], flown to Carswell and delivered to Al Clark who will then deliver it to McMullen."

Because it was hot that day, DuBose waited in his office until he was told that the aircraft from Roswell was in the traffic pattern. Once he had the word, he drove out onto the ramp and waited for the airplane to land. He couldn't remember whether it was a B-25 or a B-26, but did say he knew it wasn't a B-29. McMullen would not have approved of using one of the bombers.

As the plane rolled to a stop, Colonel Alan Clark walked over and received the bag from the Roswell crew. DuBose said, "Clark took the package and got into the B-26 [or B-25, the Fort Worth plane standing by] through the belly of it… he handed it to somebody…it was one of those things you tied to your wrist and he handed it to somebody and climbed in there. And that's the last I saw of it. In a couple…three hours it was delivered to McMullen and that's the last I heard of it."

DuBose wasn't sure of what happened to the debris after it got to Washington because McMullen had told him not to talk about it and certainly wouldn't entertain questions about it. But he did say, "…McMullen said to me, or someone…what we're going to do with this is send it out to Wright Field and have it analyzed. That's a capability they didn't have at Andrews [the base in Washington where Clark and the flight landed.]"

According to DuBose, there were no guards on the flight from Roswell and none on the Fort Worth aircraft. He also said that he never had the opportunity to see the debris. "I only saw the container and the container was a plastic bag that I would say weighted fifteen to twenty pounds. It was sealed…lead seal around the top…The only way to get into it was to cut it."

That, according to DuBose, was the only package. He made it clear that the debris in the bag was different from the debris that would later be displayed in Ramey's office. There would be other flights, but by that time, everything would be highly classified. In fact, DuBose said that"…McMullen told me you are not to discuss this and this is a point at which this is more than top secret, beyond that… This is the highest priority and you will say nothing. That was the end of it."

Brigadier General Arthur Exon

General Exon surfaced in 1990 as a witness to some of the events surrounding the crash of the craft near Roswell in 1947. Exon, a lieutenant colonel in 1947, was an Army Air Forces officer assigned to Wright Field. He was there when the crash debris and the bodies arrived at that base. Though he now claims no first-hand knowledge of those events and says that he was, in fact, speculating about them when researchers interviewed him beginning in May 1990, the situation as described by Exon then was considerably different than what he claims today. In other words, he back pedaled slightly on this. Researcher David Rudiak, however, reports that Exon, in interviews conducted before his death, made it clear that he, Exon, had talked to participants in the analysis of the debris and the bodies, and his discussions weren't quite as speculative as debunkers would have us believe.

Exon was, because of his assignments and his locations during those assignments, in a position to see and hear things about flying saucers and the surrounding investigations. These he reported during the initial interviews with him, drawing on his memories of the situation and what he had seen himself. During these interviews, Exon kept referring to a group of high-ranking officials, both governmental and military, who controlled access to all the data about the Roswell crash in particular and UFOs in general.

Of course, by listening to the tapes of the interviews, and reading the letter that Exon sent to me on November 21, 1991, it is clear that most of what he told me wasn't really speculation. It was information that he gained because of who he was and where he was and what he had seen himself. The areas of speculation were quite small. There were be more details of this discussed in "Investigators and Investigations" chapter.

Exon told me, for example, that he had been at Wright Field when they heard the material found at Roswell was being brought in. He said that he knew it was coming in. He said that the bodies had been brought to Wright Field and that he believed that one of those bodies had been sent to Lowry Army Air Field because the Army's mortuary service was based there.

During the initial interview conducted on May 19, 1990, I asked Exon, "You've heard the rumors about the little bodies and all that stuff hadn't you?"

Exon responded, "Well, yes, I have. In fact I know people that were in photographing some of the residue from the New Mexico affair near Roswell."

Exon then said, "As a result of that, I know they saw the one sighting and then where…a good bit of the information came down. There was another location where it was where apparently the main body of the spacecraft was [I will note parenthetically that Exon is confirming here, more than one crash site]…where they did say there were bodies there… I've got special information but it may be more rumor than fact about what happened to those bodies although they were all

found apparently outside the craft itself but were in fairly good condition. In other words, they weren't broken up a lot."

Exon, a retired Air Force brigadier general, was saying that he heard, from those he knew at Wright Field, that the rumored bodies and the "residue" from New Mexico were being brought to the base for analysis. It was clear from what he said that he did not personally see the bodies, but had heard of them from those who had. He spoke of his special knowledge, suggested it might be rumor but then he described the discovery of the bodies in a serious light based on what his friends, who were first-hand witnesses, had told him.

Talking of the bodies and if they were taken to Wright-Patterson, he said, "Well, that's my information. But one of them was that it went to the mortuary outfit…I think at that time it was in Denver, where these people were being identified. But the strongest information was that they were brought into Wright-Pat."

Exon continued, saying, "But back in that '47 time period, everybody was, it happened and why wasn't there more information and who kept the lid on it. Well, *I know* [emphasis added] that at the time the sightings happened it went to General Ramey… who was at Carswell Air Force Base [Fort Worth Army Air Field] and he along with the people out at Roswell decided to change the story while they got their act together and got the information into the Pentagon and into the President."

There is no speculation here. Exon was telling researchers what he knew from his conversations with the people directly involved. Notice that there was no hint of speculation anywhere, but Exon, in fact, used the term "I know" instead of anything suggesting that he was guessing based on who he was and what he had heard through the grapevine.

"Of course President Truman and General Spaatz [then commander of the Army Air Forces], the Secretary of Defense [Forrestal] who has now passed away, and other people who were close to them were the ones who made up the key investigative teams in relation to the released information… So they decided to make it a national cover up…*I did know* [emphasis added] that their numbers one and two people were at the top of the staff including the Secretary of Defense and the Chief of Staff and the intelligence circle including the President, I don't know whether anybody outside the President's office, I never hear of any elected officials."

He then qualified the statements, saying, "This is stuff I've heard from '47 on to the present time, really. About why wasn't it…about who was responsible and it was no problem to find out who was in those positions in '47 and '48 and I just happen to remember them because the Air Force was being formed and I was in the Pentagon and worked around a lot between the Pentagon and the field so I knew these people."

Although he speculated about the location of the metal, meaning he believed that it was still at Wright-Patterson in 1990 when the interviews took place, he did know what happened once it had arrived at the base in 1947. He said, "I think

it was there because there was quite a bit of effort to take it to the labs and try to analyze it chemically and metallurgy and everything else involved in trying to find out what the material was because some of it was very flimsy and was tougher than hell and other was almost like foil but strong. It had them pretty puzzled so I know people were investigating trying to find out what it was. And it wouldn't surprise me if some of the material wasn't still around. Certainly the reports."

So Exon was aware of the various laboratory tests that were conducted. It is not necessary for him to have witnessed the tests to know what had transpired during them. Exon might not have seen the tests or participated in them but he was reporting exactly what he had heard from those who had.

In fact, the only area of speculation was that the material would still be around Wright-Patterson somewhere in the 1990s. And, if the material itself couldn't be located, then the reports and analysis of the debris would be available. Reasonable speculation by Exon considering who he was and what he had already admitted to knowing.

Exon then began to speak of the alien bodies. I mentioned the bodies to Exon, saying that he knew the bodies from Roswell had been taken to Wright-Patterson. Exon answered saying that he knew it too, and then added, "Well, I don't know that."

Exon then said, "People I have known were involved in it and they're the ones that told me they [the bodies] got to Wright-Patterson. But what I've been trying to do is try to imagine what could have been done with them scientifically from a storage stand point for further investigation. It's one thing to kind of have an autopsy and another thing to keep them. I know there were facilities available that could have done that but I don't believe they were at Wright-Patterson."

In other words, Exon's speculation wasn't about the bodies arriving at Wright-Patterson, or even the fact there were bodies recovered. Instead, he was speculating on the tests that could be conducted on them when they arrived at Wright-Patterson and where they could have been stored once the preliminary research had been completed.

His knowledge of the Roswell events went far beyond what he had been told by those he trusted. Again, in the last few months before he died, Exon has suggested to some researchers, or more accurately it has been reported by those researchers, that the situation isn't exactly as has been reported. He supposedly told some investigators that he had flown over many areas in the desert southwest and as he had, he had speculated about the location of the crash.

But this reading of the situation simply isn't the case. On June 18, 1990, Don Schmitt had the opportunity to visit Exon at his home in Riverside, California. Schmitt was able to record most of the conversation, though he had trouble with his recorder and a gardener who decided that it was time to mow the lawn. Schmitt also made notes to back up the tape and provided me with a copy of those notes.

Again, Exon explained about the oversight committee that controlled access

to the information about the crash. Exon was telling Schmitt what he knew, based on his position as the base commander at Wright-Patterson.

Schmitt asked, "Was there any name for the operation?" Exon answered, "Well, I…no, I don't recall that there was. Our contact was a man, a telephone number. He'd call and he's set the airplane up. I just knew there was an investigative team. There probably was a name but I…"

There was a slight break in the tape and then Exon said, "…Stuart Symington, who was Secretary of Defense [actually he was Under Secretary of War for Air in July 1947], Joe [actually Carl] Spaatz [Chief of the Army Air Forces]…all these guys at the top of the government. They were the ones who knew the most about Roswell, New Mexico. They were involved in what to do about the residue from that…those two findings."

Schmitt said, "You say those two.

Exon answered, "Probably part of the same accident but two distinct sites. One, assuming that the thing, as I understand it, as I remember flying the area later, that the damage to the vehicle seemed to be coming from the southeast and northwest but it could have been going in the opposite direction but it doesn't seem likely. So that farther northwest pieces found on the ranch, those pieces were mostly metal [again I note that he is confirming more than one location for crash related debris]…"

Exon described the debris that had been found, saying, "…couldn't be easily ripped or changed…you could change it. You could wad it up you could change the shape but it was still there and…there were other parts of it that were very thin but awfully strong and couldn't be dented with heavy hammers and stuff like that…which at that time were causing some people concern…again, say it was a shape of some kind you could grab this end and bend it but it would come right back. It was flexible to a degree."

Since Exon began claiming, at lease to the ears of some debunkers, that he had flown over many sites and was only speculating, a letter he sent me on November 24, 1991 becomes important. At that time I had been accused of misquoting Exon. After I supplied a copy of his taped interviews, a copy of the book showing the context of the quotes that I had used, I asked in what area Exon believed he had been misquoted.

He wrote back, "I'm sorry that a portion of my interview has caused you trouble. I will acknowledge that the 'quick' quote does have me saying that my flights later, much later, verified [sic] the direction of possible flight of the object. I remember auto tracks leading to pivital [sic] sites and obvious gouges in terrain."

In 1998, Exon was interviewed by Tom Carey, a careful researcher living in Pennsylvania, in an attempt to clarify some of the confusion that had grown up around Exon's statements about the crash site. Now, instead of suggesting that there were multiple sites and multiple locations, Exon again talked of two distinct sites. He spoke of them as if he had known, in 1947, what he was seeing. He knew

that these were the locations where the metallic debris, and the craft and bodies had been recovered. He told Carey that there had been discussion in the aircraft, meaning the one in which Exon was flying at the time, about the Roswell crash. The idea that Exon's testimony was "speculation" is an obvious attempt to reduce the critical information to unimportant. Audio tapes of that interview also exist.

What becomes clear upon reviewing the tapes, the 1991 letter, and the new interviews by Carey and Rudiak, is that Exon was not speculating about these events and activities as some now suggest. There is nothing in the statements he made, nor in the letter he wrote to me that suggests that he wasn't discussing what he knew from either first-hand observation or communication with those who were directly involved. The speculations revolved around what happened after the debris or bodies had arrived at Wright-Patterson, not about the recovery of the craft, material or bodies. In fact, he wasn't even speculating about some of the testing. He said that he received the information about the tests from technicians who had actually conducted the tests and whom he personally knew.

Exon said that the material, the metallic debris, was flown on to Wright Field. Pappy Henderson, a pilot with the 1st Air Transport Unit at Roswell, said that he was one of the pilots who flew the debris to Wright Field.

Exon talked of the bodies coming into Wright Field. Helen Wachter, was visiting a friend with a new baby, when her, the friend's husband came home, somewhat agitated. He was an MP at Wright Field and was talking about aliens that had been brought into the base. She, at first, thought he was referring to people from another country, but it soon became clear he was talking about creatures from another world.

Exon described the debris in the same terms used by a dozen other witnesses including Bill Brazel, Major Jesse A. Marcel, Master Sergeant Lewis S. Rickett, Sergeant Robert Smith, Sallye Tadolini and Loretta Proctor. There is no indication that Exon was personally acquainted with any of these people, though it is clear that he was aware of the Roswell case and its implications before any investigator interviewed him.

Exon's somewhat vague description of the location of the impact site agrees with what has been suggested over the last several years. In fact, looking back to his statement about two distinct sites, there is another clue about the validity of the statements made by Exon. He said, "So the farther northwest pieces found on the ranch, those were mostly metal."

He was speaking of flying over the two sites, and if he had followed the conventional wisdom, if he had followed the scenario developed in the late 1970s, then Exon's statement should have read, "So the farther east pieces found on the ranch…"

Clearly Exon was not speculating, nor was he drawing on what he might have read elsewhere. He was describing, in the first hand, a situation he had witnessed. And, as the investigation continued, drawing on the testimonies supplied by Edwin Easley, Lewis Rickett, W. Curry Holden (a historian who did

research in the Roswell area in 1947), Thomas Gonzales, and the second-hand information from Barbara Dugger (granddaughter of Sheriff Wilcox), it is obvious that Exon's claim that the impact site was to the southeast of the Brazel ranch was correct. This suggests an inside and intimate knowledge of the events near Roswell. Exon was not relating what he believed to be the truth, or was speculating about what he believed to be the truth, but was describing the situation as he had lived it in 1947. The statements he made on tape and the words he used are crystal clear.

The question to be asked, then, is if Exon was speaking candidly, and if the information is accurate, then why now the claim that he was speculating? The answer is threefold.

First, it seems that the change in Exon's attitude was precipitated by outside events. Exon provided many facts that he should have kept to himself. He was caught him off guard by the first interviews, speaking of events that were more than thirty and forty years old. He assumed that the information was no longer classified and it was no longer important to keep it hidden. Because of that, he spoke freely of events he should have kept to himself.

Second, some of the controversy around Exon's statements were the result of the politics inside the UFO community. If Exon was telling the truth about the development of an oversight committee to control the debris, craft, and bodies, and if his information was accurate, then clearly the MJ-12 documents were fraudulent. The wrong people were named on the oversight committee. Because of that, proponents of MJ-12 claimed that Exon had been misquoted. Rather than suggest where Exon was wrong, they attacked the accuracy of the quotes, ignoring that the fact that the statements were recorded on audio tape and some of those claiming that I had misquoted Exon had heard the tapes.

Finally, and most telling is the information given to Schmitt near the end of his interview with Exon. Schmitt said, "We still have witnesses involved with Roswell that tells us they are sworn to secrecy or at least that's still their perception…they will go to their graves honoring their commitments."

Exon then said something that becomes important when all is considered. He said, "I'd do the same thing. You'd just be hazed and hassled by everybody who was trying to reconstruct the thing…"

Exon, then being "hazed and hassled" and probably having been reprimanded by someone inside the Air Force, was trying to subtly "rewrite" history. He was claiming that his statements were speculations, or there are those who are dismissing his statements as speculations. This simply isn't the case. Exon might not have liked it, the skeptics and the debunkers might not like it, but his words are on tape and taken in context. He let quite a bit of information out of the bag, probably not realizing what he was doing. It is clear from what he said, and from the corroboration that has been found that Exon knew the truth.

Chapter Five: The Media

Let's now take a step back and look at the situation in Roswell from the point of view of the media, which means the radio and newspaper reporters who were there or who would arrive there over the several hours when the story was huge. We know about crash because Jesse Marcel decades later told friends about it, but the investigation continued after his revelation because there had been articles in the newspapers that showed Jesse Marcel with the debris from a weather balloon. Those articles also helped identify others who might have had some knowledge of what went on in 1947 such as Sheriff Wilcox, Mack Brazel and the officers at Eighth Air Force. In other words, this was not a single witness case with only some dim memory from that single witness, but a multiple witness case with newspaper articles as limited corroboration that something extraordinary had happened.

With the newspaper reporters controlled by July 8, meaning their access to the relevant people was limited as the Army moved those people around, it is clear that the Mack Brazel interview, reported in the *Roswell Daily Record* had been staged for the press. Brazel had already been on radio station KGFL with reporter Frank Joyce to talk about what he had found on Sunday, July 6, according to what Joyce told me during several interviews. Joyce was sort of the utility player for the station who played the music, did the commercials and gathered and read the news.

On Sunday, July 6, Joyce, according to what he told me, called over to the sheriff's office to see if there was anything going on that might be interesting. The sheriff gave the phone to Brazel and according to Joyce, Brazel told him about the metallic debris he had found. Joyce said that Brazel seemed to be shaken by his discovery, which, if all he had found was scattered metallic debris, doesn't make a lot of sense. Joyce claims credit for telling Brazel to call out to the base and while he might have suggested it, the sheriff and his fellow ranchers had already told Brazel to do that.

Joyce said that he had the impression that Sheriff Wilcox didn't believe much of what Brazel said. Joyce said that Brazel told him everything on the telephone, which means that he talked about the Debris Field and there is a hint in this that Brazel might have seen alien bodies at some point. There was just a hint of this, however.

Joyce thought little about the story on Sunday but he reported it anyway. Then, on July 8, Walter Haut came into the station with a press release and said, "I'm giving you an hour on this," meaning that he wasn't going to give it to the other media outlets in Roswell until after Joyce had it for an hour.

Joyce read it over and then told Haut, "Walter, you shouldn't send it out."

Haut said that it was what Blanchard wanted, it was Blanchard's idea, so it was going to be released.

Haut told me, in response to questions that he remembered little about the creation of that press release. Blanchard had ordered it and Haut prepared it, taking it in turn to each of the newspapers and radio stations. He didn't know who was first on the list that particular day, only that he made it a habit to rotate the order so that no one got everything first and no one got everything last.

The information about the crash broke at 2:26 p.m., according to a story that a member of the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, Frank John Reid, found in the *Daily Illni*. According to that information, the Associated Press put the story of the crash on the wire announcing that a flying disc (flying saucer) had been found in Roswell.

At that point, according to Joyce, his telephone went crazy. He claimed that a Colonel Johnson called him from the Pentagon, screaming at him and demanding to know who the hell told him to make the press release. Joyce finally told Johnson he was a civilian and there was nothing Johnson could do to him. Johnson snapped, "I'll show you what I can do to you."

Joyce's response, according to what he told me, was to find the press release and the subsequent story so that he could prove to his boss he hadn't made it up. That, of course, wasn't necessary because Whitmore knew about the crash. And, later Joyce could not produce the press release. He did, however, have some of the teletype traffic about the case that he showed to various researchers.

Joyce said that the craft was about thirty-five feet in diameter and that it was all beat to hell. But he didn't see it himself and Brazel, who might not have seen that, didn't give him the description. My assumption is that he learned that from Johnny McBoyle, another radio reporter at another station.

Johnny McBoyle and KSWS

McBoyle was a reporter and station manager for KSWS in Roswell, the competition for KGFL. McBoyle, at some point, had tried to get out to the crash site. He called back to the station and was on the telephone with Lydia Sleppy, the secretary, dictating to her what he had seen. He apparently had some luck because he said that the object looked like a crushed dishpan and there were burned spots on the ground.

Sleppy, in an interview conducted in February, 1993, told me, "He just called me and said he had something for me to put on the line… He said that he had gone into the coffee shop in Roswell and this rancher walked in… He [the rancher] had been out on the ranch… when he came on this thing that was all smashed up…"

But Sleppy had another aspect of the story that to some makes little sense. She said that she was putting McBoyle's story out over the wire, typing it as he dictated it "when the signal came on that this was the FBI and we were to cease transmitting."

There are those who suggest there is no mechanism for the FBI, or anyone else for that matter, to interrupt the transmission. There was a switch that had to be flipped from transmission to reception and if the switch is in the transmit position it can't receive. Sleppy, however, is positive that her typing out McBoyle's story was interrupted. She stopped typing and then McBoyle told her the rest of the tale.

She insists that the FBI halted the transmission. Of course everyone assumes that the transmission was interrupted by the FBI using the teletype when it would have easier for them to use the telephone and order the halt. It would have interrupted the transmission without the necessity of somehow blocking the teletype machine. Sleppy said it was interrupted and a telephone call is both possible and likely.

Merle Tucker, who owned the station, and who was out of town when the crash happened, was trying to buy more stations for his fledgling network. He was suddenly concerned, given the nature of the story and the alleged halt order from the FBI that he was going to get into trouble with the government, which would have to approve his licenses and the agreements to purchase the additional stations. He talked to McBoyle about it, but by that time, McBoyle was reluctant to say anything. Tucker told me during an interview conducted in Albuquerque, that McBoyle told him he couldn't talk about it.

It was KFGL that made the most of the story. Joyce had his original, late Sunday night interview with Brazel. Then, as the story began to expand, and the timing here is critical, Whitmore decided to head up to Corona to find Brazel. Even today that's about a three hour drive and the roads today are far superior to what they were in 1947.

At the Brazel ranch, they talked to Brazel and then suggested they go back into Roswell for another interview. According to Walt Whitmore, Jr., son of the majority owner, Brazel spent the night at the Whitmore house. He was up early the next morning and told the younger Whitmore about the crash and how to find the site.

Once back in Roswell, they recorded the interview on a wire recorder, the predecessor to the tape recorder. Judd Roberts had been the minority owner of radio station KGFL in 1947 and he told me on several occasions that the most interesting interview with Brazel was the one Whitmore had made but never broadcast. Orders from members of the New Mexico congressional delegation to Whitmore prevented the broadcast. According to Roberts, if they played the interview then they could begin looking for something else to do. Their license to broadcast would be pulled immediately.

Roberts said that the interview contained information about the crash. Once Whitmore had finished his interview, he thought that the Army would be interested in what Brazel had seen and what he had to say. Whitmore then escorted him out to the base to see if anyone there had any questions for Brazel.

Brazel, now under military escort, was eventually taken to the offices of the *Roswell Daily Record* where he was again interviewed and now gave the description of debris that matched that of the weather balloon. His story, according to Frank Joyce had changed from what he said a couple of days earlier.

Brazel, in Roswell, was seen by neighbors who recognized him, who were surprised by his somber attitude and who saw the military officers with him. One of those neighbors, Floyd Proctor would comment on Brazel's failure to acknowledge him a number of times. It just didn't seem to be like Brazel to ignore his friends.

The Associated Press

Although Brazel was at the offices of the *Roswell Daily Record*, he was now interviewed by two men from the Associated Press, Jason Kellahin and Robert Adair. They had come in from Albuquerque, or maybe it should be said, they were ordered to Roswell by the Albuquerque office. Strangely, the accounts of the two men would differ significantly.

I was able to interview Kellahin in Santa Fe in January 1993. He was gracious enough to invite me into his home and we went into a back den or office to tape the interview. I mention this because as we walked through parts of the house I noticed that he had books about the Roswell case sitting out. This, I believe, is an important point.

We talked briefly about various things as I set up the camera. Once it was running, I moved away from it, and asked him to give me his name for the record and asked what he was doing in July 1947. He told me he was working for the Associated Press. Sometime afterward, he would give up his journalism career and move into law.

Kellahin told me that they got the call from the Associated Press in the morning and then he, along with Adair drove down toward Roswell. Kellahin said that they had directions to the ranch where the thing fell and that it wasn't all that far south of Vaughn, which sits on the highway running from Albuquerque to Roswell. In Vaughn, they made the turn off the main highway and went looking for the ranch, which they found with no trouble.

Kellahin told me, "There were cars there and officers from the air base were there but they were down at the south end of the field we went into. We stopped and saw where the debris was laying on the ground. This man from Albuquerque with me, he had a camera. He took some pictures of the stuff laying on the ground and of the rancher who was there, Brazel, I believe his name was… Brazel was there and he [the photographer] took his picture… I talked to him. He told me his name and we had been told it was his ranch."

Kellahin said that they spent nearly two hours on the ranch, watching a half dozen military men and Brazel as they walked the Debris Field. There was only about a half acre of debris, according to Kellahin. To him it was just some silver-colored fabric and very light wood but certainly nothing extraordinary.

He said, "You couldn't pick it up and have identified what it was. You have to have known. But it was a balloon. It looked more like a kite than anything else."

Finished with searching the field and the preliminary interview with Brazel, Kellahin and Adair climbed back in their car and continued their trip to Roswell. In Roswell, Kellahin said they headed over to the offices of the *Roswell Daily Record*, where he saw Brazel again. About the only thing Kellahin can remember that Brazel said was that if he found anything else, he was going to keep his mouth

shut. Kellahin also told me that Brazel was escorted by a couple of Army officers while at the newspaper office, which corroborates that aspect of the tale from still another source.

All that finished, he sat down, wrote his story and then put it on the AP wire that night. He said that Adair developed his pictures and sent them out as well. Special arrangements had been made to do that.

There are some problems with Kellahin's story. Sure, I'm asking him to go back (at the time of the interview) nearly fifty years but he was the one who said that he remembered what happened. It's clear to me, however, and based on what I saw as I walked through his house, that he has tried to refresh his memory by reading about the case, including pulling the stories about it that had appeared in the newspapers. That might be a reason for the discrepancies between what actually happened and what he said he remembered.

Kellahin identified Adair for me, telling me that he lived in Albuquerque. It was Don Schmitt who interviewed Adair and fortunately for all of us, he recorded the interview. Say what you will about Don Schmitt, but I have Adair's words on tape so we know that it is accurate.

Adair's story, according to that tape is significantly different than that told by Kellahin. First, Adair said that he wasn't in Albuquerque when the story broke, but was on assignment in El Paso. There is some discussion by various researchers about the nature of that assignment. Kellahin said that Adair was little more than a teletype operator so he would have been repairing equipment, though Adair said he was assigned as a reporter. (Schmitt asked Adair about Kellahin and Adair asked, "What did he do? meaning he didn't remember him) What is really important here is Kellahin said they both were in Albuquerque and drove to Vaughn and then Roswell together and Adair said he was in El Paso and actually flew to Roswell. He said that he had been told to charter an airplane to get there.

Before landing in Roswell, at the small, municipal airport, Adair said they flew northwest, looking for the crash site. He told Schmitt, on tape, "We could make out a lot of stuff… [it] looked like burnt places… It wasn't too distinct… I guess it's about forty feet by forty feet… I remember there were four indications."

Adair said that at one location, as they flew low to get a better look, he saw guards, or soldiers on the field waving at them. He wasn't sure if the soldiers were trying to wave them off to keep them from landing or attempting to signal something else. He could see other soldiers posted around guarding the place.

Finally they turned back toward Roswell. Adair didn't have a good idea of where, exactly, they had seen the crash sites. He mentioned two of them, one with gouges in the ground and one that was covered with tall grass that was difficult to see. One of them looked as if something had set down hard and bounced back into the air so that there wasn't much to see on the ground. Two crash sites that he thought might have been oriented from the northwest to the southeast, but he wasn't sure.

In Roswell, at some point, he found Kellahin, and they both made their way

to the *Roswell Daily Record*. According to the newspaper of July 9, special arrangements were made to transmit pictures from Roswell to the AP. According to the article, "Dispatch of pictures of W. W. [Mack] Brazel, who discovered a purported flying disk on the Foster Ranch, northwest of Roswell, was made on the instruments shown in the picture. The instruments were set up in The Record office last night and the pictures sent out by wire about six o'clock this morning."

Were these the pictures that Kellahin talked about in his interview? The ones of Brazel, in the field, with the balloon and several Army officers? Pictures that could end the controversy here and now?

No. The reality is that no pictures of Brazel on the ranch, with the debris and with Army officers has ever surfaced and this suggests that such pictures were never taken. Had they been taken, they would have been printed somewhere, and someone, by now, would have found them. We've managed to find every picture that is of relevance to the case, but none of Brazel in the field with the balloon.

Yet, we do have documented evidence that Brazel was photographed and that pictures were transmitted from Roswell. In a story that appeared in the *Roswell Daily Record* dated July 9, and entitled, "Harassed Rancher who Located 'Saucer' Sorry He Told About It," we learn more about the picture. And, it confirms some of the other information that we have gathered about the case.

According to that story, "Brazel was brought here late yesterday by W. E. Whitmore of radio station KGFL, had his picture taken and gave an interview to the Record and Jason Kellahin sent here from the Albuquerque bureau of the Associated Press to cover the story. The picture he posed for was sent out over the AP telephoto wire sending machine specially set up in the Record office by R. D. Adair, AP wire chief sent here from Albuquerque for the sole purpose of getting out his picture and that of sheriff George Wilcox, to whom Brazel originally gave the information of his find."

For those wondering, one picture of Brazel, smoking a cigar has surfaced. He's wearing his cowboy hat. It is credited as an AP Wirephoto, so it must be the picture sent out over the wire. It was not taken outside and it does not show any of the debris that Brazel found. It's just a picture of Brazel, smoking.

The Press in Fort Worth

With these stories and pictures the interest shifted from Roswell to Fort Worth, Texas. Brigadier General Ramey had ordered Major Jesse Marcel from Roswell to Fort Worth and to bring some of the debris with him. Since Ramey commanded the Eighth Air Force, no one in Roswell could do anything other than comply.

In interviews conducted later, including those with Colonel Thomas DuBose, Warrant Officer (later major) Irving Newton, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* reporter J. Bond Johnson, and, of course Marcel, the sequence of events in Fort Worth could be deduced. Here we are only interested in how the media handled the situation.

According to interviews conducted with Johnson over a period of several weeks, he was the man who took six photographs of the debris in Ramey's office and he was among the first to interview Ramey. Later he would claim that only he had interviewed Ramey, but other newspapers quoted their own reporters. When Johnson was there, no other reporters were. They could have come in later, or, more likely, most of these other interviews were done over the telephone, a practice that is even more common today.

According to the original interview, Johnson was in the office when his boss asked if he had his camera. He said he did and the man told him to get over to General Ramey's office. "They've got a flying saucer and they're bringing it up from Roswell."

Johnson drove out to the base and was taken to Ramey's office where there was wreckage scattered on the floor. According to what Johnson told me, the debris was flimsy stuff and smelled of burned rubber. Ramey told him that it was just a weather balloon that had crashed.

Johnson took six pictures that afternoon. Two of them showed Marcel crouched by the debris, two showed Ramey, and the last two showed Ramey and Dubose. Johnson didn't know it then, but one of the pictures would become extremely important when UFO researchers began to reexamine the Roswell case (see the Ramey and the Smoking chapter).

Having used all his film, having learned what the debris was, Johnson returned to the newspaper office to develop the pictures. Just before midnight, long after Ramey had appeared on radio station WBAP in the Dallas-Fort Worth area to explain that the mystery was solved by a weather balloon, after another of his officers told the FBI that it was a weather balloon, and nearly two hours after ABC News "Headline" edition had also reported the solution, Johnson put his pictures on the INS photowire.

There was one other picture taken in Ramey's office that night. Warrant Officer Irving Newton was photographed crouched by the same debris that appeared in the Johnson photographs. It is believed that the picture was taken by

someone at the base rather than a reporter and I have suggested that was the Public Relations Officer, Major Charles Cashon.

Johnson said, originally, that he didn't spend much time in Ramey's office. He took the pictures, talked briefly to Ramey and DuBose but either said nothing to Marcel, or Marcel didn't answer any questions. Marcel would later say that Ramey had told him to keep his mouth shut. Ramey certainly controlled the tone of the meting.

That night, according to what Johnson said originally, he wrote the article that appeared the next day in the newspaper. Johnson, in an interview with me, said, "Seven nine [July 9] is my story on the front page."

That article, and that statement have become important as the story developed. According to the article, "After his first look, Ramey declared all it was was a weather balloon. The weather officer [Newton] verified his view."

With that, the importance of the Roswell find was destroyed. For three hours the world believed a flying saucer had been found. Then Marcel arrived in Fort Worth, Johnson arrived at Raemy's office, and the identity assigned to the material in Ramey's office was established. Not a flying saucer as reported, but a weather balloon.

Confusion about Ramey and Marcel

Back in 1990, having spent a couple of hours talking to Johnson on the telephone, I reported what I had learned. I admit a little confusion, but it was borne, not of what Johnson was telling me then, but of what others had reported earlier. William Moore, who co-authored *The Roswell Incident*, had quoted Marcel as saying, "There was half a B-29-ful outside. General Ramey allowed some members of the press in to take a picture of this stuff but were not allowed far enough into the room to touch it. The stuff in that one photo was piece of the actual stuff we had found. It was not a staged photo. Later, they cleared out our wreckage and substituted some of their own. Then there allowed more photos. Those photos were taken while the actual wreckage was already on its way to Wright Field. I was not in these."

Thirty years after the meeting in Ramey's office (I hesitate to call it a press conference because that term seems to offend so many, yet by definition, that was what it was) controversy erupted. Johnson, after he had talked to me on audio tape on more than one occasion suddenly had a new story that was now in conflict with what I had written about him. In fact, he became quite vocal about it, claiming I had misquoted him repeatedly, that I had attempted to force my views on him, and the real story of what happened in Ramey's office and later back at the newspaper was substantially different than what I had reported.

Others, in the 1990s, came out with a new version of Johnson's involvement. In this one, according to Johnson, he had arrived at Ramey's office and then been left alone inside it for a few minutes. Now Johnson unwrapped the packages brought from Roswell and spread them out on the floor… Or maybe, depending on Johnson's mood, some of the packages were already opened and he just opened some others, arranging the debris for his photographs of it.

This has become a critical point, not so much because of the controversy about Johnson's statements, but because of what was attributed to Marcel. Remember, he allegedly said that he was in the pictures of the real stuff and everyone else was in the pictures of the switched debris, which was, of course, that of a weather balloon.

The problem developed from Moore. He provided a transcript of his 1979 interview with Marcel, but now it was subtly different. It said, "There was half a B-29-ful outside. General [Roger Maxwell (first and middle name added by Moore)] Ramey allowed the press in to take *TWO* [emphasis added) picture[s] of this stuff. *I was in one, and he and Col. Dubose were in the other* [emphasis added]. *The press was allowed far enough into the room to photograph this* but weren't allowed to touch it. The stuff in *these* photos was the actual stuff we had found. *These were* not staged photos."

So, Moore was attempting to attribute the comments to Marcel, and it seems that the attribution is accurate. If so, then the Roswell case is solved as a balloon

and we all go home. But there are additional facts.

Back in the early 1980s, New Orleans TV reporter Johnny Mann accompanied Marcel to Roswell to film a five part series on UFOs for his station. Marcel now made his home in Houma, Louisiana, which is close to New Orleans, so that made Marcel's story of a UFO crash a local story.

Mann told me that once they arrived in Roswell, had been out to the desert, and were discussing the case, Mann showed Marcel the pictures taken in Ramey's office. First was the highly cropped version that appeared in the *Roswell Incident*, and then the full pictures that appeared in many newspapers nationally, and the photos as they had been retrieved from the Special Collections at the University of Texas at Arlington. Mann told Marcel that it looked like a balloon to him.

Marcel told Mann that the material in the pictures was not the material he'd picked up in Roswell. These were, in fact, staged photographs taken in Ramey's office.

We could suggest that Moore had made up the quote and then changed it as we learned more about the situation and more pictures were found. The problem is that Marcel, on tape, does, in fact, suggest that there were pictures taken of him with the real debris. Moore is guilty of changing the quote as his books, his articles, and his letters prove, but the original idea about Marcel and photographs of the real debris are not Moore's inventions.

I did talk to Irving Newton. He is the warrant officer in the seventh photograph. He was quite clear about the situation. He told me he had been in the weather lab when Ramey called him and told him to get over to his, Ramey's office and Ramey didn't care how he did it. He was to steal a car if he had to.

Newton said that when he walked into the office, he recognized the balloon right away. He had launched, he said, hundreds of balloons and rawin reflectors during the Okinawa invasion so he was quite familiar with them. He said that Ramey was on Marcel's back about making such a mistake and that he canceled the special flight that was to take the material on to Wright Field.

So, here's what we know today. J. Bond Johnson took six photographs of Ramey, Ramey and DuBose, and of Marcel in Ramey's office. Contrary to what Johnson has said in the last decade, it was clear at that time that Ramey told him it was nothing more important than a weather balloon and that is exactly what Johnson wrote when he returned to the newspaper. Ramey then expanded his explanation, telling radio station WBAP in the Fort Worth-Dallas area that what was found was a weather balloon. Other newspapers and radio stations picked up the story and reported that the excitement was over nothing more than a weather balloon and the story died.

There are two final points to be made here. One is that when witnesses begin to expand their stories and contradict themselves, we need to return to the record made at the time. Memories do, in fact fade, and what a witness says today has been colored by everything he or she has witnessed, how he or she has told the

story in the past, or by the simple motivations of fame and fortune. Johnson clearly began to manipulate his story, trying to find a role for himself that was more important. He did take the pictures, he did talk to Ramey on July 8, and he did write a newspaper article that gave us a very nice look into the drama inside Ramey's office. He then cluttered it all up by claiming he had photographed the real debris, that Ramey didn't give him the cover story when he was there, and suggesting that others had misquoted him. In the end, we were able to dig through the nonsense and arrive at the truth, but only after Johnson had hurt the importance of his overall tale.

Second, there was one piece of evidence that came out of this, and it is in a picture Johnson took. Ramey, crouched by the wreckage, is holding a sheet of paper. In the 8 x 10 glossy prints from the Special Collections, there appears to be a gray smudge on the paper. Under magnification, it is clear that these are typewritten words on the paper and seem to be clear enough that some of the words can be read. Researchers, using larger blow ups, and using sophisticated computer equipment have been able to resolve more of the smudge. This might provide the smoking gun proving that Roswell was extraterrestrial. We'll examine all of that later.

Chapter Six: Investigations and Investigators

In the years since the Roswell case exploded all over the media and dozens of people have begun investigations, there has been quite a bit of false, faked and lousy information published. I confess that I have been guilty of my share of it, such as giving Frank Kaufmann a voice much louder than he deserved, but I'm not alone. We've been graced with Glenn Dennis, Gerald Anderson, Jim Ragsdale and dozens of other lesser lights who really knew no more about the case than we did.

A bigger problem, however, might be all the investigators who have national forums and who sometimes use these forums for personal agendas with the authenticity of the information taking a back seat. I want to address some of these issues here, trying for a middle of the road approach that leaves personal agenda far behind. I want to look at some of the allegations hurled in th attempts to negate or eliminate the Roswell case. In other words, I hope to answer some of the questions about Roswell with solid information rather than speculation and invention.

The case of the reports of Air Force Brigadier General Arthur Exon is a prime example of these personal agendas. Remember, Exon, as an Air Force lieutenant colonel was assigned to Wright Field when the Roswell debris was forwarded for analysis in 1947. Exon provided, from his perspective, what he knew personally and what he had learned from friends and colleagues at the base.

Plock, Korff and Exon

Karl Pflock ignored Exon's testimony, mentioning it in only two paragraphs in his book. In one of those paragraphs he noted what I had written about Exon and then suggested, "As we will see, General Exon has quite a different take on what he actually said and intended to convey."

Later in his book, on page 124, Pflock wrote, "When first made public in 1991, it seemed Exon's memories of the possibility that the bodies had been flown from Roswell to Wright Field in 1947 might be based on firsthand information. If so, this would be highly significant, especially since Exon also seemed to have firsthand knowledge of the debris field and crash site, as well as a shadowy high-level group established to keep the truth about Roswell under wraps. However, in a lengthy September 1992 telephone conversation, Exon told me his comments about bodies and debris at Wright Field were based solely upon rumors he heard from colleagues at Wright Field and nothing more. As for the 'control group,' he said he was merely making educated guesses as to who likely would have been selected for such a group. Finally, with respect to his all alleged knowledge of the debris and crash sites, he told me he remembered flying over several sites in New Mexico quite some time after July 1947, on missions having nothing to do with the Roswell incident. One such location might have fit what he had been told about the crash site by ufologists because it had vehicle tracks running to it."

That's all that Pflock has to say about Exon. He references a personal telephone call to Exon, provides nothing in the way of transcripts or tape of that conversation, and then dismisses the testimony as irrelevant and unimportant. Exon didn't see anything first hand. Exon heard rumors. Exon didn't fly over the crash site… well, maybe he did, but it was later and it might not have been the right place.

As we have seen, and as will be reinforced later, Pflock's assessment of the importance of Exon and what he said is way off base. In fact, some corroboration for Exon's testimony has come from George W. Towles, who, in 1947 was also at Wright Field and worked inside the T-2 Intelligence there. Wendy Connors and Michael Hall, in *Alfred C. Loedding and the Great Flying saucer Wave of 1947* , report that Towles had told them that T-2 Intelligence knew of a crash of an object and the some of the personnel were dispatched to Roswell for further investigation.

Kal Korff, in his hostile and poorly researched, *The Roswell UFO Crash: What They Don't Want You to Know* , takes the same reductive course with Exon. I could go on at length about the mistakes that Korff makes and the misrepresentations that he makes, but that would just be more of the same he said, he said variety of argument.

Fortunately, a third party, Greg Sandow, provided an interesting commentary

about Korff's book and his opinions on Errol Bruce Knapp's UFO UpDates Internet discussion group not long after Korff's book was published. In response to some of the Korff nonsense, Sandow wrote:

Now a look at Kal's comments on General Arthur Exon. Remember my disclaimers — that I'm not commenting on the nature of the Roswell crash, or on the overall worth of Kal's book. I won't be drawn into arguments about those subjects. I'm only commenting on three passages in the book…

What does Kal say? Something really sharp: "There is no excuse for how Exon's 'testimony' is misrepresented in the Randle-Schmitt book. It is blatant fiction on the part of the authors…Randle and Schmitt were deceptive in their presentation of both Exon's recollections and his supposed 'involvement' in the Roswell affair."

So what's that about? The indictment, as it turns out, rests on one lone accusation, that Kevin Randle and Donald Schmitt presented Exon's remarks as if he were relating first-hand testimony, when actually he was only reporting things he'd heard from others. This, in some ways, is a remarkably trivial charge. Why do I say that? Well, suppose that it's true. Then we can shout "gotcha" to Randle and Schmitt, and we'll be careful to check anything either of them says in the future.

But then what did Exon say even as a second-hand witness? As Kal himself tells us (see p. 93 of his Roswell book), Exon talks about Roswell debris being flown to Wright-Patterson. "The boys who tested it," Exon says, "said it was very unusual….It had them pretty puzzled." First-hand, second-hand….either way we've got a banner headline, even if Exon never said one word beyond what Kal quotes. An Air Force general, even if he's only giving his general impression of what he's heard about Roswell, says the same things about the Roswell debris as some of the controversial first-hand witnesses do! If you put any weight on Exon's impressions, the Mogul theory [the glorified weather balloon explanation offered by the Air Force in 1994] takes a big hit. Isn't that more important, in the overall scheme of things, than any question about Randle and Schmitt? And, as we'll see, Exon said much more than that.

But then is Kal right to say Randle and Schmitt distorted Exon's remarks? I don't think so, for three reasons.

(1) I've heard Kevin's first interview with Exon on tape, and read Kevin's scrupulously accurate transcript. I thought Exon said exactly what he's quoted as saying in Kevin's book.

(2) Even the passage Kal quotes doesn't support his view. Here's how Kal presents it: "To read the RandleSchmitt book, it appears that Exon *corroborates* the Roswell UFO recovery by providing impressive-sounding testimony that appears to be firsthand. 'We heard the material was coming to Wright Field….It was brought into our material evaluation labs. I don't know how it arrived but the boys who tested it said it was very unusual.' Exon described the material: '[Some of it] could be easily ripped or changed….there were other parts of it that were

very thin but awfully strong and couldn't be dented with very heavy hammers….It was flexible to a degree,' and, according to Exon, 'some of it was flimsy and was tougher than hell and almost like foil but strong. It had them pretty puzzled.'"

"To almost anyone reading this," Kal writes, "it would appear that…[Exon] was a *firsthand* source who was present and personally saw what he describes." But I don't see it that way at all. Consider these statements: "We heard the material was coming….I don't know how it arrived, but the boys who tested it said…It had them pretty puzzled." Isn't it clear that Exon isn't speaking of first hand knowledge? Who wouldn't understand that Exon didn't handle this debris himself?

A page later in the Randle-Schmitt book comes another Exon quote, which Kal doesn't reprint: "The metal and material was unknown to anyone I talked to. Whatever they found, I never heard what the results were. A couple of guys thought it might be Russian but the overall consensus was that the pieces were from space."

Again, it's perfectly clear that Exon didn't handle or analyze the material himself, and even that his knowledge was limited. But he appears to think he'd spoken to people who knew at least something about what the analysis had shown. How sure was he of this knowledge? Let me quote a few suggestive passages. First, an Exon quote from Randle's book: "I *know* [my emphasis] that…[General Ramey] along with the people out at Roswell decided to change the story while they got their act together and got the information into the Pentagon." (*UFO Crash at Roswell*, paperback, p. 111.) Another Exon quote from Randle: "*I just know* [again my emphasis] there was a top intelligence echelon represented and the President's office was represented and the Secretary of Defense's office was represented…" (He's talking about the secret UFO committee that he's sure existed; *UFO Crash*, p. 232.)

And here's something Exon said on the tape, which wasn't quoted in Randle's book. Kevin asks, referring to stories we've all heard about alien corpses at WrightPatterson: "You've heard the rumors about the little bodies, haven't you?" "Yes, I have," answers Exon. "In fact, *I know people* that were involved in photographing some of the residue from the New Mexico affair near Roswell." [My emphasis.] Here's something else, about how Exon knows that there were alien bodies from Roswell at Wright-Patterson: "People I have known *who were involved with that*" told him so. [Sandow's emphasis.]

Look back at the quote Kal thinks is so damning: 'We heard the material was coming to Wright Field….It was brought into our material evaluation labs. I don't know how it arrived but the boys who tested it said it was very unusual.' Exon described the material: '[Some of it] could be easily ripped or changed….there were other parts of it that were very thin but awfully strong and couldn't be dented with very heavy hammers….It was flexible to a degree,' and, according to Exon, 'some of it was flimsy and was tougher than hell and almost like foil but strong. It had them pretty puzzled.'"

Given the full context of Exon's remarks…and bearing in mind everything I've quoted from Kevin's interview with him.…isn't it clear (a) that Exon certainly *thought* he knew quite a bit (even if not first hand) about the subjects he was quoted on, that (b) he says quite clearly that he'd talked to people who *were* involved first-hand, and (c) that therefore the passage Kal quotes from Kevin's book is really quite reasonable in both its tone and content? I don't think it misrepresents Exon at all. (Here's another quote from Exon, from the tape: "Most of the people you're talking to are a little bit like me. Close enough to know that there was something happening. They had no direct responsibility for any of it." Anyone who reads the complete sections on Exon from Randle's books will, I think, form exactly that impression.)

And now let's take a closer look at what Exon actually said. Let me say again that I've done more than read Kevin's two Roswell books (and, by the way, the second, which Kal doesn't mention at all, has additional material that continues to make it clear that Exon wasn't speaking first-hand). I've listened on tape to the interview Kevin quotes, and read Kevin's entirely accurate transcript.

What does Exon say? Taking account the full text of the interview, and the full extent of accurate quotes from it in Kevin's book, including many things I haven't mentioned here yet:

1. Exon says he believes the Roswell crash was extraterrestrial. ("Roswell was the recovery of a craft from space.")

2. He says he knows that debris from the crash was studied at Wright-Patterson, and that the debris was extremely unusual. His description matches that of alleged first-hand witnesses.

3. He says that "apparently" there were bodies found, and that they were located at "another location," or in other words not at the location of the metallic debris. The main body of the craft, he says, was also found there. (What he means by "apparently" isn't clear. He says this, however, just after he talks about what people have told him about the metallic debris. It seems reasonable to assume the same people told him about the bodies. Note that Exon's mention of "another location" supports Kevin's thesis of two crash sites. When you hear the interview on tape, it's clear that Exon says this all on his own. Randle hasn't even brought up the topic.)

4. He says the bodies were brought to WrightPatterson.

5. He says he flew over the Roswell crash site, and saw the "gouge" the crashed object made in the ground. (Kal, rather oddly, mentions this elsewhere in his book, but doesn't dispute it — or, in fact, even mention it — in the passage I'm discussing, which is his major examination of Exon's role as a Roswell witness. I can assure everyone that Exon indeed did say this. I heard him say it on the tape.)

6. He says there was a coverup. In fact, he calls it (on the tape) "a national coverup project."

7. He talks about which government officials served, in his opinion, on a secret UFO project.

8. He talks about a secret Air Force team that investigated UFO events. This is first-hand knowledge. He dispatched the planes that flew the team to the events they investigated.

It's also notable that he brings up Roswell all by himself. Kevin didn't know he knew about it. Kevin's only thought was to talk to someone who'd been at WrightPatterson about the rumors of crash debris there. Let me repeat a passage from the tape that I quoted earlier. Kevin asks, referring to stories we've all heard about alien corpses at Wright-Patterson: "You've heard the rumors about the little bodies, haven't you?"

"Yes, I have," answers Exon. "In fact, I know people that were involved in photographing some of the residue from the New Mexico affair near Roswell." This is the first mention of Roswell in the interview….and it comes from Exon.

Is all of this remarkable? Of course it is. An Air Force general, whose assignment at Wright-Patterson suggests he might have been in a position to know what he was talking about, says, in great detail, that he thinks the Roswell crash was real. This is big news. Does Kal give any hint of how big the news is? Not at all. In fact, his book raises a screaming, unspoken question. Suppose Kal's right to say that Kevin exaggerated Exon's knowledge. That doesn't change the fact that Exon really believed the Roswell crash was alien. Why, then, did Exon believe that? How deeply did he believe it? Does he believe it still? Aren't these the basic questions here? Why doesn't Kal seem even remotely interested in them?

One last point. Kal says that Exon doesn't stand behind what Kevin and Don Schmitt wrote. And sure enough, he has a quote from a letter [Exon] wrote to Randle: "Further, you both [Randle and Schmitt] likely recall on many occasions during my visits with you in person and on the phone…that I did not know anything firsthand. Although I believe you did quote me accurately, I do believe that in your writings you gave more credence and impression of personal and direct knowledge that [sic — I think he means "than"] my recordings would indicate on their own! I felt that throughout the portions where my name was used." Fine. Let's forget for a moment that Exon might have every reason to back off from what he'd said — he'd been talking out of school, and someone might have firmly told him so — and assume he really stands behind this criticism. He truly thinks Schmitt and Randle exaggerated his direct involvement. *But he also says they quoted him accurately!* In other words, he doesn't challenge their assertions that he thought the crash was extraterrestrial, that he'd heard the metallic debris was really changed, that he'd heard there were bodies, that he believed there was a coverup, that he believed top government officials were involved in a secret UFO committee, and that he himself had dispatched planes on secret UFO-related missions. If he's not challenging all of that, then his words to Kevin are the mildest of rebukes. If this relatively minor point is the full extent of his disagreement with the things about him in the book, isn't he in effect endorsing everything important that Schmitt and Randle said?

It should be noted here that Greg Sandow did visit me in my home and that I

provided him with full access to all the notes, files and recordings that I had about the case simply because I have nothing to hide about it. Many of the debunker attacks are launched with information that I have provided in an attempt to be honest with the direction of the investigation. Without that, they would never have had some of the information about my work that they do. They would never know, for example, about the letter that Exon wrote to me because it came to me and it was clear from Exon that he had not made a copy of it. This demonstrates that I have been careful in what I said about Exon and his testimony.

The Attacks on Jesse Marcel

The same sort of smear has been directed at Jesse Marcel and it all is based on an interview that Marcel granted to *National Enquirer* reporter Bob Pratt (who, I should point out here was a very careful reporter regardless of the nature of the publication for which he worked) who graciously shared his interview transcript to all who asked for it. The problem is that it is often confusing and the answers Marcel gave might have been misinterpreted by Pratt. Others have suggested that Marcel was a liar whose story could now be rejected based on that transcript. In fact, Karl Pflock, in an open letter to Stan Friedman, made just this allegation.

But the situation has been muddied by those who wish to believe the worst about a man who is dead and can no longer defend himself. They have assumed that Marcel's military record is one hundred percent complete and accurate, and that the transcript Pratt made of his interview, as provided to various UFO researchers and as published by UFO researcher Karl Pflock, is one hundred percent accurate and complete.

It has been suggested by many debunkers that few of Marcel's claims about his background have stood up to scrutiny. Author Peter Brooksmith, in one of his most recent UFO books, for example, suggested that Marcel had no real combat experience. He was nothing more than “a passenger on combat flights” in the South Pacific during the Second World War. Reporters for a San Francisco television station, in a multi-part story, suggested much the same thing. Although such an allegation certainly calls Marcel’s record into question, it is a ridiculous statement with no evidence to support it. No one flies into combat as a passenger (unless, of course, they’re paratroopers on the way to battle, for example).

In fact, in the two citations for the Air Medal in Marcel's military file, it was written, "For meritorious achievement while participating in sustained operational flight missions… in the Southwest Pacific area during which hostile contact was probable and expected. These operations consisted of bombing missions against enemy airdromes and installations and attacks on enemy naval vessels and shipping. The courage and devotion to duty displayed during these flights are worthy of commendation."

In other words, Marcel was on the missions as part of his job as intelligence officer for various units in the Southwest Pacific during the war. Passengers on such flights, if there ever were any, were not routinely handed medals for "riding" along. (Okay, Lyndon Johnson got a Silver Star for riding along, but he had already been a high-ranking member of the Senate so he doesn’t count.) Marcel was doing his job, and to suggest that "his combat flying was limited to a passenger's job" as Brooksmith claims is an attempt to belittle the reputation of a man without evidence to support the allegation.

Peter Brooksmith apparently searching for anything to destroy Marcel's

reputation continued in this same vein when he wrote that Marcel claimed to be the sole survivor of an aircraft accident during the war. Like the other allegation, this simply isn't true and seems to be the result of a misreading of Pflock's recreation of the transcript of the Pratt interview.

In his conversation with Pratt, Marcel mentioned that he had been shot down on his third mission. Pratt had then asked Marcel, "Did everyone survive?"

Marcel said, "All but one crashed into the mountain." It seems to be quite clear that Marcel is saying that everyone survived, except for one crewman, who died when he crashed into the mountain.

Here is where one of the problems with the transcript arises. Pflock, in his attempt to make the transcript clear, changed it. According to Pflock, Pratt asked, "How many missions did you go on?"

Marcel: "I had a total of 468 hours of combat time…was intelligence officer for bomb wing, flew as pilot, waist gunner and bombardier at different times… I got shot down one time, my third mission, out of Port Moresby."

Pratt: "Did everyone survive?"

Marcel: "All but one crashed into a mountain."

What the transcript actually says is, "A — I had a total of 468 hours of combat time…was intelligence officer for bomb wing, flew as pilot, waist gunner and bombardier at different times… I got shot down one time, my third mission, out of Port Moresby (everyone survive) all but one crashed into a mountain [reproduced exactly as is appears in the Pratt transcript, ellipses and all]."

One interpretation of that statement could be that Marcel was saying that everyone survived, except for a single crewman who crashed into a mountain. All we have to do is add a comma to make it clear.

Pratt asked, "Did everyone survive?" Marcel answered, "All, but one crashed into a mountain."

It could also be interpreted to mean that all but one of them crashed into a mountain and were killed. But that still doesn't make Marcel the sole survivor as Pratt claimed because there is that one other man who lived. No matter how you slice it, Brooksmith's interpretation of the comment is flawed. Marcel made no claim of being a sole survivor of that combat mission, but Brooksmith is quick to smear his name and reputation by suggesting that he did.

On the other hand, can it be proved that his record is incomplete? Marcel, according to a notation in the record, received the Bronze Star for meritorious service on May 8, 1945. There is no citation in his file for the award of the Bronze Star. That means the record is incomplete.

The citation for the Bronze Star was included in the unit history of the bomb group to which Marcel had been assigned in 1945. That proves there was a citation and it should have been included in his file. The citation suggests the award was made on May 3, 1945. In other words, the file is wrong on that point. Yes, it is a minor mistake and could easily be the result of carelessness in transcribing the records. But, isn't that the point here. Debunkers are attacking

Marcel because his record does not agree with what he said but that record is incomplete and inaccurate.

In fact, this sort of inaccuracy confounds other aspects of this controversy. Debunkers and skeptics are attributing actions to Marcel for which he is not the blame. The press release made on July 8, 1947 about the capture of the flying saucer is a prime example of this. The debunkers have all suggested that Marcel made the press release under his own authority. Marcel didn't have the authority to make a press release. It could only be authorized by Colonel William Blanchard, the commanding officer of the 509th Bomb Group.

But, to make a case against Roswell, they must create the idea that the press release was a blunder made by Marcel. The fact is that it did not affect Marcel's career, and it certainly didn't harm Blanchard. Both men were promoted after the press release was issued. Blanchard climbed to four stars and might have been named Chief of Staff of the Air Force had he not died of a heart attack prematurely.

Marcel is now blamed for an action that could have only come from the commanding officer of the 509th Bomb Group. Only Blanchard could order the public relations officer to issue the press release. Had Marcel wanted it done, either he, or the public relations officer, would have had to get approval for it from Colonel Blanchard. Walter Haut, the public relations officer in 1947 has said repeatedly that Colonel Blanchard ordered the press release. So, Marcel didn't create the press release to thrust himself into the public eye as been alleged by Brooksmith and others.

Finally, in a controversy that should be embarrassing to the skeptics and the debunkers, they claim that Marcel said he was a pilot on active duty. That is not what the Pratt transcript or the Pflock version of it said. What Marcel told Pratt was that he had flown *AS* a pilot, bombardier and waist gunner during his service in the South Pacific. That is quite clear on the transcript and is a real difference.

The real problem might be Marcel's claim of three thousand hours of pilot time and eight thousand total flight hours. That seems to be what he said to Pratt. But searches of FAA records show no pilot's certificate for Marcel, and when he was filling out his forms to join the service, he made no claim of such extensive flight experience prior to entering the Army.

Clearly some of that experience was gained in the Army Air Force. As an intelligence officer in aviation units he would be expected to fly on a number of occasions. In a unit that had strategic bombers as its main equipment, there would certainly be a number of long, high-hour flights. For someone with nine or ten years of active service, it is not unreasonable to expect him to have several thousand hours of flight time as a crewman on those missions.

The real question comes down to his claim of three thousand hours of pilot flight time and no record for it. Marcel, in the Pratt interview claimed that he began flying in 1928, the same year that the FAA was formed. In the beginning the licensing requirements were much looser and more difficult to enforce. It is easy

to believe that, in the late 1920s and the 1930s, someone would fly without the benefit of a government license to do so.

Marcel worked for Shell Oil Company as a map maker and he used aerial photographs in his work, according to his military file. Records from that time at Shell Oil are hard to locate and the specific aviation records have long been lost. If they could be found, the records might shed some light on Marcel's claim that he began flying in 1928. It could be that, as part of his cartographer's duties, he was required to fly. It could be that he acted as co-pilot on those flights. If true, it explains quite a bit. This is speculation on my part and the truth is, the records that we do have do not corroborate Marcel's claims as to pilot time.

When his record is examined there are some conclusions to be drawn. First, Marcel didn't claim to be a rated military pilot. Anyone who reads the transcript carefully realizes that Marcel never said that he was a pilot, only that he had flown as one. It's not the same thing, though it is splitting a fine hair.

Second, to believe that Marcel was a liar, his military record must be accepted as one hundred percent accurate. This is not true. The missing citation for the Bronze Star demonstrates that. If that is missing, what else can be missing?

There is nothing in the Marcel record, at this point, to allow us to brand Marcel as a liar. There are disagreements between what he allegedly said to Pratt, how Pflock interpreted those comments, and what is in the record. There are even discrepancies between what is in Marcel's personal file and other records in which he is mentioned. But none of these discrepancies are of much consequence and can be explained as simple mistakes in Pratt's transcript or the military record or even in Marcel's memory.

The skeptics and the debunkers seem to believe that if they can destroy Marcel's reputation then the whole Roswell case collapses. But they do not report that Marcel was held in high esteem by the officers appointed above him. His officer ratings by Blanchard and those at Eighth Air Force are all excellent. Even the rating in the months that followed the Roswell crash, Marcel was rated as an excellent officer.

The only negative to be found is a suggestion that he tended to over react to some situations. Debunkers have used this to suggest that Marcel invented the Roswell crash because of this overreaction. Of course, they always neglect to report that Marcel was seen as a perfectionist and this caused him to micro-manage some aspects of his job. This is certainly not a major criticism and is of little real consequence in the overall picture.

What is seen, in the end, is a man, Major Jesse A. Marcel, Sr. who was promoted to lieutenant colonel shortly after the Roswell crash, who served his country with distinction and valor, and who was just who he said he was in July 1947. That is, he was the air intelligence officer of the only nuclear strike force in the world at the time.

This was a man whose military record does not reflect what he told a single reporter some thirty years later. The points of the discrepancy are little more than

trivia. They simply are not relevant given the nature of the interview, the military record, and Marcel's otherwise exemplary career and character.

Verification of the Alien Crash

The Roswell case does not rise or fall on Marcel because he isn't the only man who told the tales of the alien spacecraft. As noted earlier, others on Blanchard's staff confirmed the alien nature of the craft recovered. So even if what the skeptics report about Marcel was true, it would mean little in the overall scheme of things. It's a shame that the memory of a fine officer and World War II veteran has to be attacked because there are those who can't handle the truth. Jesse Marcel deserved better from everyone.

But in this world, perception is everything and the Air Force understands that as well. Remember, they produced two books about the Roswell case, the first, longer, focused on Project Mogul as the culprit and used interviews conducted with very few people about the Roswell case. Most of the witnesses interviewed were members of the Mogul Project.

What is missing from the Air Force investigation is an interview with Brigadier General Arthur Exon. Here is a retired Air Force officer who was available to the Air Force and who had said some astonishing things about the Roswell crash as noted by Greg Sandow earlier. He did talk of bodies, of debris, and of first-hand observations. When the Air Force was conducting its investigation, Exon was alive and available to speak to them, on the record. Why did they leave out any mention of him or his comments?

There were others they could have interviewed as well. Some of those, such as Bill Brazel, were not in the military during the Roswell case, though Bill had served in the Navy during the Second World War. The Air Force set a precedent by interviewing Charles Moore who, as far as I know, has no military background at all. So, it wasn't as if they weren't going to interview civilians.

They couldn't interview Edwin Easley because he had died before their investigation, but they could have listened to the tapes of the interviews I conducted, they could have seen the notes I made, and finally they could have interviewed his family members about his comments. Granted, the interview notes and the interviews with the family are not as good as listening to the man himself, but they could have done that. I offered them copies of the tapes and notes, but they just weren't interested.

We could have done the same with the interviews with Bill Rickett who did say he had seen a military cordon in direct opposition of what Sheridan Cavitt said to their investigator Colonel Richard Weaver. They could have had both audio and video tapes of those interviews with Bill Rickett and while certainly not as good as interviewing the man himself, certainly more instructive than ignoring his testimony altogether.

The same could have been done with Brigadier General Thomas DuBose, who, as a colonel, was Ramey's Chief of Staff. Video-taped interviews of the man existed and what he says on the tape flies in the face of some of the things the

Air Force issued in their report.

There is some controversy surrounding what DuBose has said, but that conflict is simply resolved. Use only those portions that were recorded and ignore those that have no unfiltered notes. That means, simply, ignore the statements of those who cannot produce a taped back up. I can say this because I have the taped back-ups and those others do not.

I know why the Air Force ignored all that testimony. No matter what we've seen in the past, how various writers and investigators have handled the statements made by Exon, DuBose, Easley, Marcel, and the others, the Air Force didn't want to be put in a position of calling retired officers liars. What if Exon took offense at being labeled a liar and decided to sue? The consequences would be ugly, no matter what was learned or what the truth was.

Or, what if the Air Force believed that none of the living officers would respond to the allegation so there was nothing to fear in the way of a lawsuit? The problem would remain that either high-ranking officers were fairly incompetent, or were, in fact liars. That certainly wouldn't make the Air Force look very good no matter which way the public opinion broke.

They took the only course available to them and that was to ignore the testimony of these men. Let the UFO researchers and the debunkers fight it out, let one side smear the names and reputations of the other, and ignore the problem.

The only trouble with that course was that it makes the Air Force investigation look incomplete. Why not interview these men or listen to the tapes of what they had to say? Listen for the nuances of their statements, look for the leading nature of the questions, point out any inaccuracies if they could be found, but don't ignore a body of important evidence because you probably won't like the outcome.

As we have seen, it's easy to smear someone, turn a word or a phase around and suggest the person isn't honest. We've all seen the negative campaign ads that take a statement or vote out of context to suggest the opposition is something less than human. In fact, in Iowa, during a nasty turn in a campaign ad one candidate suggested the other might be a communist because a communist group had endorsed one of his ideas. In today's world, who really cares? But more importantly, the candidate was obviously not a communist and his support of raising the minimum wage induced the communist endorsement. Suggesting the candidate was a communist was not based on fact but on allegation. It was a twisted point of view told to win votes and the accuracy of the statement, or how the endorsement had been made was not important.

Today, we must look beyond that and decide if these men, whose words have been twisted by the reporters and investigators, were honest in what they said. The simple answer is, "Yes." The complex answer is "Yes, but they could be mistaken."

Chapter Seven: Too Many Witnesses?

So, suddenly, there are a number of people who were in Roswell in July 1947 and who claimed to have both handled the debris and who had seen the military cordon surrounding the Debris Field. These are reliable witnesses who reluctantly told their stories and whose descriptions of events generally matched one another. These were people who were found by researchers. Unfortunately, as the case became bigger and received more attention, others came forward to tell their tales. As we investigated them, we learned that some of them were inventing them.

Walter Haut, who insisted for years that he had just provided the press release to the various news outlets in Roswell also became the unofficial center of Roswell research. He would furnish clues and give the names of those who might not have been as involved as they would like others to believe. Walter became a conduit for the information.

Sitting in Haut's front room one evening, I was asking about the mortician who I'd heard about. No one seemed to have a name, just a slight description. One man even told me that the man now worked part time in the Albuquerque Public Library. Haut, however, looked at me and said, "I know the name you're fishing for. It's Glenn Dennis."

Glenn Dennis

According to the information publically available,Dennis lived in Roswell in 1947, but was not a mortician at the time, merely an embalmer. He worked at the Ballard Funeral Home on Main Street. Dennis was the most reluctant of witnesses, being cagey, suggesting that he wasn't going to talk, but in the end always told his story to anyone who asked about it, especially if they had a video camera and access to the national media.

Dennis, in various taped interviews with various researchers and documentary producers and in discussions with me, said that he had been working alone when a call came in asking about coffins, small coffins, that could be hermetically sealed. This disturbed Dennis and he decided to drive out to the base. There, at the hospital, he found very unusual activity. Inside he saw a nurse he knew, later he said it was Naomi Self, and asked her what happened. She told him he needed to get out before he got into trouble but her warning was too late. An MP, a red-haired officer, spotted him and had him escorted from the hospital.

His story didn't end there. He confessed that going into the hospital he'd looked into the rear of an ambulance and saw strange metallic debris stored in it. He said it looked like part of a canoe with unidentifiable writing on it.

And even that wasn't enough. He met Self later and she described the events that had everyone worked up. Some strange little creatures had been brought into the hospital, apparently killed in some sort of accident. According to Dennis, she made a quick sketch of what the creatures looked like and provided a verbal description of the events. Before she left him that evening, she shredded the sketch so that small piece of evidence too, was lost.

Dennis, in interviews with researchers, was reluctant to provide the nurse's name, saying that he had promised her that he would not break her confidence. He also said that he had written to her once, through an Army Post Office (APO) after she had given him her address when she was transferred in July 1947, supposedly because of what she had seen. His letter came back marked deceased and he was told that she had been killed with four other nurses in an aircraft accident.

I tried to verify this and searched through the *New York Times Index* . These are volumes that list all the articles from the Times according to type (and were a valuable resource prior to the explosion of information on the Internet). I could look through aircraft accidents, and look only at military aircraft accidents. There was enough information that if anything looked promising, all I had to do was pull the microfilm for that day and read the whole article. I failed to find anything that matched Dennis' story.

That was one of the first failures to corroborate Dennis' tale. His description of the base hospital in 1947 was inaccurate, but that certainly could be the result of a flawed memory. I attached no real importance to that mistake.

But the real search was for Naomi Self. Dennis was quite clear about the

name. He told me he didn't want it shared with others. He wanted a quiet search to find this woman he had known about forty years earlier. In fact, during a conversation one night, he wanted to know why I hadn't found her. He'd given me the name months earlier. I told him we had searched and actually found four women named Naomi Self but none was the right one.

Dennis, however, wasn't as tight lipped with Self's name as he had often claimed. Others had it, some with the variation of Naomi Maria Selff. It didn't matter.

Vic Golubic, a researcher then living in Arizona also learned the name from Dennis and began a search for her. He ran through the list of nurses assigned to the base from 1946 to 1948. He checked the local hospitals. He looked in the base telephone directory and then began a search through the records of the Army. He included intensive genealogical search of Minnesota families because Dennis thought she was from there. He identified and located the Cadet Nurse Corps Identification Cards. He went to the morning reports for the medical personnel at Roswell. He checked with the VA and other veteran organizations. In other words, he looked everywhere there should have been a trace of Naomi Self and he found none. He had, as they say, proved the negative. No one by the name of Naomi Self had served in any capacity at Roswell or even in the Army at the critical time.

As the research continued, Dennis began to spin the story. Now, he was telling people that when we pressed for a name, he gave us a fake name. He claimed that he had told us all at the time that he'd give us a name but that it wouldn't be a real name. If we wanted a name, we could have one.

And then he said the name of the nurse was really Naomi Sipes. He'd just mislead us on the last name. But, of course, no nurse with that name appeared in any of the records that had been searched.

Finally, he said that he hadn't given us any of her name. It didn't matter that he had suggested earlier that we had failed him somehow by not finding his nurse. He had told her that he wouldn't tell anyone who she was and he hadn't.

This suggested that the nurse, and the story of the nurse, was the invention of Glenn Dennis. We'd been unable to verify almost everything he said about his involvement. All possible areas of documentation that he had suggested failed to produce results.

Looking back on it, it becomes clear that Dennis' tale doesn't emerge until the late 1980s, after the pictures of alien busts had appeared in the *Roswell Daily Record* and after there had been a book, magazine articles and a number of TV reports. It is also fairly clear that the story of the nurse given by Dennis, while exciting, is not based in fact.

Frank Kaufmann and The Nine

Walter Haut was also responsible for Frank Kaufmann. Haut told me that one man I'd want to talk to was Kaufmann. I could learn a great deal from him and I could find his telephone number in the Roswell telephone directory.

I called Frank Kaufmann for the first time on January 4, 1990 and told him that Walter Haut had given me his name. I mentioned that I was looking into the flying saucer event of July, 1947 and asked if he had been involved in some fashion.

His response, which would become typical of him was, "Well… I don't know."

He hinted during that first conversation that he knew a little more and for the first time introduced a warrant officer named Robert Thomas who would eventually evolve into a general who had been traveling in 1947 as a warrant officer. A general arriving at Roswell, especially after the announcement they had found a flying saucer would be big news. A warrant officer coming in wouldn't stir much interest.

So Kaufmann was cagey, though he admitted to having seen the *Unsolved Mysteries* broadcast about the crash. He suggested that they were mostly right, but he objected to the Jesse Marcel story of taking debris home to show the family. Kaufmann said that it would have been classified before Marcel went to pick it up. He was saying the military had more information than they had admitted to having.

Over the next several years Kaufmann granted more interviews including a long one on video tape, and finally said that he had been deeply involved, that he was on the inside and had helped plan the retrieval and the cover-up. He worked with a corps of specialists of all ranks who became known, at least to him, as the Nine. He would provide some documents to prove his case and suggested that he had more and better documents that he would release some time later. He did show me a couple of those and one of them, if it could be believed, was the smoking gun. It was from Major Edwin Easley and it discussed the retrieval operation and suggested the craft was from another world. The date was late 1947 and there would be no way to counter such an explosive document.

Kaufmann took us to a site that he said was where the main craft and the alien bodies had been found. He described the scene in detail, even commenting on how peaceful one of the dead aliens looked. Later he would take others to a different location.

There were those who didn't believe Kaufmann. Some thought his story was too good, some were convinced he was lying simply because they refused to accept the idea that an alien ship had crashed, and there were those who didn't believe because Kaufmann had not told his story to them before giving it to me. Such is the nature of the UFO field.

On the other side were little things that seemed to corroborate Kaufmann's story. Little details that he couldn't have known at the time he was giving us the main pieces of his story and things we learned later. Of course, if you provide enough details, some of them are going to match newly discovered facts. This is called coincidence.

Kaufmann's story unraveled after he died. In among his papers were found original documents, as well as the forgeries that proved he was lying. For example, he had made it clear that he was a former master sergeant who had specialized intelligence training. His military records showed that he had been a staff sergeant with training in administration but no intelligence courses. The document he had showed to prove his claims was not the same as the original found later. Clearly he had fabricated one.

So Kaufmann's story, like that of Dennis, fell apart. The details didn't match his claims and there was no reason to believe that he had been an insider. None of those he named as having been with him were ever found, though he had given us some names. No corroboration for his wild tales meant that we could now reject his story as invention.

Gerald Anderson

The same could be said for Gerald Anderson, who wasn't one of Haut's witnesses, but who surfaced after the *Unsolved Mysteries* rebroadcast in 1990. Anderson claimed that as a five-year-old boy he had been on a rock hunting expedition with his family when they had stumbled over the remains of a crashed disk on the western side of the Plains of San Agustin in New Mexico. This was the site that Barney Barnett, a soil conservation engineer had give to friends in the early 1950s. It was the only link to a craft and bodies that had been discovered until so many other witnesses surfaced in the 1990s.

Anderson told a marvelous tale of seeing the craft, four alien creatures lying near it. Three were dead and one injured, or maybe, according to Anderson two were dead, one was injured and one was attempting to help its fellows. The descriptions of the creatures varied as well, with Anderson changing his story as he learned more about aliens and what researchers expected them to look like.

Anderson, it seemed, now corroborated the Barnett tale of a crashed disk on the Plains of San Agustin, provided new and exciting details, including the descriptions of the aliens, and even talked of a nasty red-haired officer which corroborated part of the Glenn Dennis story. If what Anderson said was true, then an important witness had been found.

But there were problems with Anderson's tale. He talked of a Dr. Adrian Buskirk who had been the leader of the archaeological party that Barnett had described. To make it even better, Anderson, a former police officer was able to provide an identi-kit sketch of Buskirk so that we would know the man if we could somehow locate him.

Tom Carey, who had studied anthropology as an undergraduate and as a graduate student began a search for Dr. Buskirk. Almost the first thing he did was find a reference to Dr. Winfred Buskirk who had written a book about the western Apache. Carey wrote for a copy of the dust jacket and received one. The picture of Buskirk matched, to a surprising degree that of the sketch that Anderson had supplied. Carey had found Anderson's Buskirk.

Buskirk, when interviewed a few weeks later, said that in the summer of 1947 he had been on the Apache reservation in Arizona, but wasn't all that far from the Plains. Buskirk said, however, he had not been involved in any of this because he had been too busy doing his research. Or as he said, he was too busy to engage in any archaeological sideshows.

Some investigators believed that Buskirk was lying about that because he held a reserve commission in the military. They believed that he was covering up the truth for the Army.

Buskirk, however, was quite open and answered all the questions I put to him. The question became, if Anderson hadn't seen him on the Plains in July 1947, how would he be able to identify him. Anderson couldn't have just pulled a

name out of a hat and learned later that the man had been an anthropologist who was in the right region of the world at the time. There had to be a connection.

Buskirk himself, intrigued by the question, did some research of his own. Anderson, it seemed, had attended the Albuquerque High School where Buskirk taught a course in Anthropology. Anderson had merely identified his old high school teacher probably believing that Buskirk would be unavailable for interviews.

Transcripts from the high school and reviewed by Buskirk, showed that Anderson had taken the Anthropology class one semester and then transferred to French. That produced a connection outside of the Plains. What are the odds that Anderson and Buskirk would find themselves in the same high school?

There was another interesting aspect to this. The picture of Buskirk that Anderson supplied was clearly Buskirk as he appeared when Anderson would have known him as a teacher. Buskirk, in 1947, was a much slimmer man with a narrow face. Ten years later he had put on weight and had a much rounder face.

To complicate matters, Anderson began claiming that he and I had spoken for only 26 minutes on the telephone during our initial and only interview. I don't know why this point was important to Anderson. He insisted it was true and he supplied his telephone bill to prove it.

My tape of the conversation ran to nearly an hour. I was able to get a copy of the telephone bill that Anderson supplied to one researcher proving he had talked to me for only 26 minutes, and a copy of the appropriate page from the telephone company. On the surface they looked the same, but in the end it was clear that Anderson had created the one with the 26 minutes on it. When confronted with the evidence, he admitted that he had forged the telephone bill to make me look bad. It was just one more proof that his story couldn't be trusted.

In the end, Anderson's tale did not support that of Barney Barnett because Anderson claimed to have been on the Plains on the wrong day. A diary kept by Barnett's wife proved that Barnett was in Socorro on the day Anderson claimed to have seen him near the crashed flying saucer. Lest you think Anderson just misremembered the date, Anderson also had a diary. The dates were in conflict. Of course we had a source for the Barnett diary but the Anderson diary came from a conveniently unavailable aunt.

To make matters worse for Anderson, he had claimed to have been a SEAL during his Navy service in the 1960s. The SEALs, however, said they could find no record that he had trained with them or served with them. Anderson found himself on their "Wall of Shame" which named those who had claimed to be SEALs, but who had invented their affiliation with them.

Jim Ragsdale

On January 26, 1993, Jim Ragsdale told UFO researchers, for the first time, in some detail, how he had witnessed the crash of an alien spacecraft in July 1947, how he had watched the military begin the recovery operation, and how he, with a female companion, originally identified as Trudy Truelove, had picked up pieces of the strange metallic debris.

Don Schmitt had arranged to meet with Ragsdale and his wife at their home to discuss the story and he recorded the interview on audio tape. Schmitt sat down with Ragsdale, who, at the time was on oxygen due to his poor health. Schmitt had brought maps and photographs hoping that Ragsdale would be able to locate the crash site and confirm some of the information that had been developed over the last several months.After an inquiry about Ragsdale's health, the interview began, Ragsdale said,"Hell, when it came down you couldn't really tell what it was… what you could still see, where it hit. I think it was two spaceships flying together and one of them came down and the other one picked up what they could and got out of there."

Ragsdale then said, "But it was either dummies or bodies or something there. They looked like bodies. They weren't very long… over four or five foot long at most. We didn't see their faces or nothing like that there, but we had just got to the site and we heard the Army, the sirens and stuff all coming and we got into the damn jeep and taking off. We had to hold a fence up and go up under the damn fence onto another ranch to come out from there."

Ragsdale and his female companion returned to the impact site the next morning. They heard the military arriving on the scene. He said, "Oh… it must have been… it was two or three six by six Army trucks, a wrecker and everything… and leading the pack was a '47 Ford car with guys in it… MPs and stuff…"

The interview was hard to follow because it seemed to be all over the map. A direct question about some aspect of the UFO crash was twisted until the talk was of something else. Ragsdale and his wife seemed to have their own agenda and attempted to direct the flow of the conversation. Only occasionally was it brought back to the UFO crash.

On April 24, 1993, I spoke to Ragsdale again because there were some points that needed to be clarified. For example, if he had witnessed the crash of what Ragsdale thought, at first, was some kind of government experimental craft, why hadn't he reported it to the sheriff or the military that night. Lives could be at stake.

Ragsdale said he had been drinking that night, and that he was out in the desert with another man's wife. Neither of them were supposed to be where they were. Besides, they couldn't see much that night. It wasn't until daylight that he had enough light to see the craft and the bodies. It wasn't until daylight that he knew

something had actually been wrecked.

There were, according to Ragsdale, "Small people there. Three or four bodies."

After arranging a financial deal with the International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell, Ragsdale radically changed his story. Now, according to him, the object passed through the trees to impact less than a hundred yards from where his truck had been parked. Ragsdale and his friend took flashlights and walked over, spending "considerable time looking around."

Now, rather than seeing bodies or dummies in the distance, Ragsdale was close enough to touch them. They were dressed in silver uniforms and wore a tight helmets. Ragsdale now claimed that he tried to remove one of the helmets but couldn't. The eyes, according to Ragsdale, were large and oval and didn't resemble anything human. Later still he would suggest that the skin of the dead alien beings was gray. The craft, according to Ragsdale, was about twenty feet in diameter, and had a dome in the middle.

In this interview Ragsdale said that it wasn't too long before they heard what they believed were trucks and heavy equipment coming. "We left and were not there when whatever it was arrived." This is, of course, in direct conflict with all the detailed descriptions offered by Ragsdale in earlier interviews.

Describing how to find the impact site, Ragsdale now said, "A sign post on the Pine Lodge Road indicates '53 miles to Roswell.' Near this sign is a road going south toward Pine Lodge… and the turn off to Arabella leads east and south. Two or 3 miles down this road towards Arabella is the site of our pickup that night and nearby is the impact site."

The discrepancies that have appeared are more than the minor changes expected as someone tries to remember events in the distant past. Researchers expect a story to shift with each telling simply because of the mechanism of memory, but these changes go beyond that. Ragsdale first reported seeing the bodies in the distance and then, in his second, more dramatic version claimed he tried to pull a helmet off one. He originally provided a vague description of the alien and then gave one that seems to match those given by people claiming to be abducted by aliens. Ragsdale said he watched the arrival of the military and described the convoy and later claimed to have left before the trucks were in view. Originally he said the crash site was thirty to forty miles north of Roswell to one that is now claimed to be sixty or seventy miles away.

The changes in the tale told by Ragsdale were detailed in *The Jim Ragsdale Story*, written by Max Littell. Littell told how he learned of Jim Ragsdale. "In 1993… we did have an investigator/author visiting us, and when his partner took the car on another errand, he needed a ride to his motel. I offered, and the individual said, 'Great, but I need to go by and see a party on the way, if it's all right.' This turned out to be Jim Ragsdale."

There was a suggestion of an affidavit, and Littell wrote, "Within a few days, the instrument [affidavit] arrived, and I met Ragsdale for the first time. The

instrument was read to him, he signed it, the document was notarized, and I mailed it back to the investigator. Notaries do not make copies of the instrument, so I do not remember any of the statements made."

This where the statements made by Littell concerning that aspect of the episode divert from established fact. Ragsdale was interviewed by Schmitt on January 26, 1993, and the affidavit was signed on January 27. Mark Chesney, who had waited in the car with Littell and who had listened to the tape, suggested an affidavit be made. Chesney prepared a handwritten version. He discussed it with Littell and the two of them, in Littell's office, made a few changes. Then Littell, because he could type much faster than Chesney, typed it up. In other words, the instrument was not sent to Littell. He had a hand in preparing it as well as getting Ragsdale's signature on it and once that was done, Littell notarized it. He sent the original to me, but kept copies in the files of the International UFO Museum.

These are but a few of the problems with the tales told by Ragsdale and now endorsed in the book *The Jim Ragsdale Story*. It is clear from these major changes that Ragsdale's tale, while exciting, cannot be trusted. Few inside the UFO community believe much of what Ragsdale said during his many interviews. Because much of the material was recorded, the various versions can be compared and when that is done, it is clear that the information is invented and not very imaginative.

Lieutenant Colonel Philip J. Corso

Lieutenant Colonel Philip Corso interjected himself into the middle of the Roswell case in 1995 as he began shopping around a book about his experiences with both alien creatures and the metallic debris collected. His story, while exciting, has many holes in it and Corso himself, seems to have stretched the truth on more than one occasion.

The first, and probably the dumbest of these distortions is on the cover of his book. It said he was a colonel, but his military records showed that he had never risen above lieutenant colonel. When asked about it, Corso said that he assumed that he had been promoted on retirement, as sort of a going away present, but that just wasn't the case.

Could this be classified as a simple mistake, no worse than some of the statements that other Roswell witnesses have made? Certainly. And if this was the only problem we could let it go there. But it's not.

One of the most telling of the events surrounding the publication of Corso's book is the Foreword written by Senator Strom Thurmond. Here seems to be an endorsement for Corso's book from a man who has served in the United States Senate longer than almost anyone. When the book was published, Thurmond, objected, claiming that the Foreword he had written had been for a different book.

Corso tried to explain the mistake away, saying that Thurmond's staff had written the Foreword but that "the old man knew it" and while they hadn't really known the nature of the book, Thurmond did. The whole flap, according to Corso, was a misunderstanding about the nature of the book and who actually authored the Foreword. As a matter of courtesy, given the controversy, Simon and Schuster decided to pull the Foreword.

Karl Pflock, who had been around Washington, D.C. in various capacities, decided to look into the matter himself, believing that his friends and sources inside the Beltway would given him a unique perspective on the matter. Pflock, it turned out, knew the senator's press secretary, and learned that "Yes, it's true the foreword was drafted by one of the senator's staff… It was done at the senator's's direction on the understanding he had from Corso that it was to be for Corso's memoirs, for which he and his staff were supplied an outline, a document which made no mention of UFOs." Pflock added, "I know of my own certain knowledge the senator was and is mad as hell about the cheap trick that Corso pulled on him…"

Pflock continued, pointing out that Deputy General Counsel Eric Raymond demanded, "Recall all copies of the first printing — failing that, remove all dust jackets with the senator's name on them; stop using any reference to the foreword by the senator in promoting the book; do not use the foreword in any subsequent printings of the book; issue a statement acknowledging the truth, 'to establish for the public record' that the senator 'had no intention or desire to write the

foreword to *The Day After Roswell*,' a 'project I completely disavow.'"

The apology issued by Simon and Schuster was not as bland as Corso had characterized it but was, in fact, damning in its wording. It was clear that Thurmond did not know the nature of the book and that the outline he had read was for a completely different book. The publisher did remove the foreword from all subsequent editions of the book.

That, of course, was not the end of it. Don Ecker, writing in UFO magazine in the October/November 2001 issue, suggested that Thurmond had known the truth about the book and had signed a release from on February 7, 1997, prior to the publication of the book. On that release, it says in part, "… permission to use and publish the material described below, in any and all editions of the book presently entitled…" There is a blank space and the words "Roswell Book" have been typed in. To Ecker, that meant that Thurmond knew the nature of the book.

It's a nice thought, but probably not true. The word Roswell might have meant nothing to Thurmond, and it is clear that the original outline submitted to the senator so that he, or his staff, could prepare a forward had nothing to do with Roswell, crashes or UFOs. Although it probably has nothing to do with this, it should be noted the UFO magazine publisher is William Birnes, Corso's coauthor on the book.

Gildas Bourdais, a French UFO researcher of some standing, wrote, in late October 2001, that to him, this settled the matter. He supported Ecker's conclusions then, but UFO research is also about reevaluation of information as we learn more, so I asked him about that in Late 2006.

Bourdais wrote, "Yes, I have changed my mind about the question of the release by Thurmond. It was a very tricky article by Don Ecker in UFO magazine, which kind of convinced me at the time that he was aware that the book dealt with Roswell. But I realized later that the argument was suspect."

He added, "Today, I have mixed feelings about Corso, as a man. I realize that, to say the least, some parts of his story are not credible… But I remain perplexed by the man himself."It seems, however, that Corso has a history of this sort of unreliable behavior. The FBI, for some reason (he probably annoyed someone with some power in Washington, D.C.) investigated Corso in the 1960s. They concluded, in part, "As a matter of background, as previously indicated in referenced memorandum, Corso is a self-styled intelligence expert who retired from the military approximately 3 years ago, and he has been working as one of Senator Strom Thurmond's many assistants. He has been somewhat of a thorn in our side because of self-initiated rumors, idle gossip and downright lies he has spread to more or less perpetuate his own reputation as an intelligence expert."

I suppose I should point out here that this FBI assessment was written in a world where there was no Freedom of Information Act and therefore no reason for the FBI to create such an assessment if it didn't reflect reality. In other words, those who might claim this was part of a smear campaign would have to explain the reasoning for creating this document when those writing it would expect it to

remain hidden. This was not a smear of Corso to be used to discredit him later, but the opinions of those who knew him in the 1960s. This shows a pattern that would emerge in the 1990s as he attempted to inject himself, as an expert, into the Roswell case.

He also said that he was a member of the fictional MJ-12. To me, making such a claim shows that he was inventing tales to bolster his connection to the UFO community. While he didn't make this claim often or widely, he said in one version of the proposal for his book that he was a member of MJ-12… a claim that was dropped from later proposals and not mentioned in the book, but a false claim nonetheless and indicative of his credibility as so aptly outlined by the FBI three decades earlier.

Corso did have his supporters inside the UFO community and some of them continue to be quite loyal in their support. What is interesting is what they now say in their support of Corso. One of them, Ed Gehrman, who seems to like the unpopular and controversial UFO claims and theories, wrote, "His own son [Philip Corso, Jr., who tried to take on his father's work after his death] in a public forum (which he wouldn't allow to be taped) in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, (Journey's Beyond Conference)… claimed that only 10 % of the book [*The Day After Roswell*] was worthwhile because Corso had not been able to review it. That's correct. Col. Corso was not able to review the book but I think his son's statement is a bit of an exaggeration. Col. Corso stated many times that the main thesis of his book was absolutely true: he seeded alien technology to the US business community."

Here's the point. Corso's son said that only about ten percent of the book was accurate… which means ninety percent is not. The younger Corso suggested it was because his father did not have the opportunity to review the manuscript after his co-author had finished it and it was sent to the publisher. As a writer, I know this to be false. There would have been ample opportunity for Corso to see what was written and correct it. That he didn't question it is a tacit admission that he accepted the manuscript as accurate and it was only after the questions were raised that Corso and others began to claim he hadn't had the chance to review it.

I'll give Robert Gates, a careful UFO researcher, the last word on Corso here. He wrote, "He [meaning Corso] never admitted to making any mistakes. He merely maintained (last I knew) that Birnes stroked and joked the book. Birnes claims the book is accurate. The question comes down to what exactly was 'Birnes-ized' in the book? In essence the book… has been discredited to a degree by the supposed lead author, claiming that his co-author stroked the truth. So what is truth and what is stroked is not known."

Walt Whitmore, Jr

There is one witness, unidentified by Karl Pflock in his book, who takes an important role in “proving” that Mogul is the solution and who was named "Reluctant" by Pflock. Reluctant provided the best clues to the Mogul balloon array explanation for the Roswell crash. Pflock wrote that Reluctant wanted to keep his name out of the story, and given the facts it is not surprising. If Reluctant was identified, it would become clear that Reluctant’s story, told to Pflock was significantly different than what he told William Moore in the late 1970s, when he, Reluctant, first appeared.

Today we know that Reluctant is Walt Whitmore, Jr., a life long resident of Roswell. He was in the house when his father brought Mack Brazel home, and heard the story of the debris field directly from Brazel. There is no reason not to identify Reluctant in today’s world. He died a number of years ago.

Describing the testimony of Reluctant (Whitmore), Pflock wrote, "… Brazel sketched a map for me, showing which roads to take and how to find the site. I drove there alone… a distance of 65 or 70 miles. No one was there when I arrived, I do not remember seeing any sign that anyone had been on the site… I am certain I was on the site before any military personnel got there."

According to Whitmore, "The site was a short distance from a ranch road. The debris covered a fan- or roughly triangle-shaped area, which was 10 or 12 feet wide at what I thought was the top end. From there it extended about 100 to 150 feet widening out to 150 feet at the base… The material was very light. I could see it blowing in the wind."

Whitmore, according to Pflock, described the material as"…white, linen-like cloth with reflective tinfoil attached to one side. Some pieces were glued to balsa wood sticks, and some of them had glue on the cloth side, with bits of balsa still stuck to it… None of the sticks was more than a foot or so long."

Whitmore told Pflock, and he told me in 1995, that he had collected some of the material and taken it home. Pflock reported that Whitmore told him, "It is… stored in a safe and secure place." He told me that place was his “junk room.”

Those aren't the only statements made by Reluctant on the record. Although the source is less than sterling, Charles Berlitz and William Moore report in *The Roswell Incident* that Whitmore"…said that while he did not see the actual crash site until after the Army Air Force had 'cleaned it up,' he did see some of the wreckage brought into town by the rancher. His description was that it consisted mostly of a very thin but extremely tough metallic foil-like substance and some small beams."

Other aspects of Whitmore’s statements to Pflock are corroborated by *The Roswell Incident*. According to the book, Whitmore"…ventured out to the site and found a stretch of about 175–200 yards of pasture land up-rooted in a sort of fan-like pattern with most of the damage at the narrowest part of the fan…"

Whitmore also provided Berlitz and Moore with a description of the material."…the largest piece of this material that he saw was about four or five inches square, and that it was very much like lead foil in appearance but could not be torn or cut at all. It was extremely light weight."

Comparing Whitmore's testimony to Berlitz and Moore with that given to Pflock and to me, a few changes are found. In the 1990s, however, Whitmore described seeing the debris, but with Moore he only described seeing the remains of the clean-up effort. When he mentioned seeing debris, it was in the custody of the sheriff.

Whitmore's description of the material, as detailed in the Berlitz and Moore book, is more consistent with that provided by others such as Marcel, Brazel, and Rickett, than it is with his later interviews. When I spoke to him, it was clear that he was describing something that sounded like the material used in balloon construction. It is also clear that his description of the material has changed over the years.

Whitmore's story has grown since he first told it to Moore. It has changed significantly since he first was interviewed, and his description now resembles a weather balloon. And, though he claimed to have bits of the debris, he was never able to produce it. Had he been able to do that, then the discussions about his testimony would be different. Without the debris to corroborate his tale, it is one that stands alone.

Where does all this leave us? The best tales told about Roswell, those that brought in alien bodies in a first-hand sense, have since been shown to be faked. Kaufmann, Anderson, Dennis and Ragsdale who said they had seen the bodies or in Dennis's case, a drawing of them, were later discovered to have invented their Roswell connections.

Not only has this left a hole in the Roswell case, but it provides the skeptics with the ammunition to sink the whole report. They can point to the testimony of any of these men and say, "See, they were making it up and they fooled you."

The response will be that we, who have investigated the Roswell case were the ones to expose these reports for what they were. The skeptics stood on the sidelines without having to get their hands dirty. So, yes, these men have been exposed, but remember who did the work to expose them.

Chapter Eight: The Skeptical Side of the Fence

One thing I have noticed about most books dealing with UFOs is that the author takes one position and then sticks to it. Rather than present a scientific analysis of the evidence, the writers treat it more like a debate. That is, they might be well aware of evidence that does not support their point of view, so they ignore it hoping that the opponent, or in this case, the reader, doesn't know about.

There is nothing wrong with that approach, but I have always thought it best to present both sides of the argument so that the reader, intelligence person that he or she is, can make a more informed opinion about the subject. I try to leave it to the reader to accept or reject that data. For this reason, my writings about UFOs have sometimes been called schizophrenic.

This is why the skeptical community is aware of Curry Holden's wife's opinion of what he told me in Lubbock a number of years ago. I was the one who reported that she had told me that her husband, because of his advanced age (he was 96 when I spoke to him) sometime confused events in his mind and that was why she was unimpressed with the fact he had confirmed the UFO crash and the alien bodies. She was sure he was confused.

I, on the other hand, am not so sure. He seemed quite lucid when I spoke to him, and I was aware of the mental confusion that can be created by a close questioning of an elderly man. I tried to approach it carefully and I tried not to give any hint as to what I wanted to know or a direction I hoped the conversation would take. In fact, I tried to approach it from the negative so that if he was picking up cues from me, it would lead him in the wrong direction.

For those keeping score, Holden told me that he was there in Roswell and he had seen it all. He would suggest, or rather others would suggest, it was like a crashed airplane with stubby wings. The site was nearly due north of Roswell. But Holden couldn't really provide details and my interview with him was short, while his wife sat there, not too happy with me.

I had tried to find documentation because Holden's papers were stored at the library on the Texas Tech campus. The best I could do was learn that he had been to a wedding and had paid a bill around the time, but given the distances involved and the timing of that information, he was not excluded as a witness. He could have made a short research trip into New Mexico in the right time frame. A solid conclusion, one way or the other simply wasn't possible.

The point is, however, that we need to look at some of the negative information that has been discovered about the Roswell case. This doesn't mean we'll again expose the witnesses to the negative aspects of their claims, or suggest why I don't, and others don't believe some of the most incredible testimony. I mean, it really doesn't do much good to say, again, that documents

found after Frank Kaufmann died suggest that he had invented a great deal of the testimony he offered on Roswell.

No, the point here is to take a look at the documentation that has been discovered and see what it says about the Roswell case. This would be documentation created before there were worries about the Freedom of Information Act so that those writing the documents wouldn't expect them to be seen by the public. This, I believe, means that those creating the documents were writing for a specific audience and would not have been as careful in the choice of their wording and phrasing as those in today's world might be. In other words, I think we would be getting some unvarnished truth here, and those of us who believe the evidence points to an alien spacecraft crash at Roswell need to see some of the evidence from the other side.

And, no, I'm not going to go through any more of the MJ-12 nonsense than I already have. It will live or die with what is out there, and the arguments have all been made in many different forums. I've been quite clear that I do not accept the MJ-12 documents as authentic, though to do so would help strengthen the Roswell case. I'm more interested in the evidence than I am in embracing something that I know to be fake.

Today I want to look at the documents created in the right time frame and that we *KNOW* are authentic because of where they were found, who found them, and what they reflect. In other words, we'll look at the evidence that suggests something other than alien answers the Roswell question.

The Twining Letter

Back in September 1947, Nathan Twining, then the commanding general of the Air Materiel Command, signed a document created in his name (I word it this way because I seriously doubt that LTG Twining sat down and wrote this… I'm sure his staff created it and he signed his name when he was satisfied with the contents), that said, near the beginning, "It is the opinion that… The phenomenon [flying saucers] reported is something real and not visionary or fictitious… There are objects probably approximating the shape of a disc… appear man-made aircraft."

Pretty impressive when considered that this was from a highranking military officer who would become the Chief of Staff of the Air Force. He was saying in this document, classified secret, that he believed the flying saucers were real, that they were intelligently controlled and they probably weren't American.

So we have a man who said that the saucers were real, and who, given who he was, would have known about the Roswell crash, had it happened. Everything we learned about it suggested the debris, and the bodies, were taken to Wright Field where the headquarters of the Air Materiel Command were located, for analysis. In fact, it would be Twining's people who did the analysis of that debris and who would have coordinated the examination of the biological samples, that is, the bodies.

That it why, near the end of the letter, where he (or his staff) wrote, "The lack of physical evidence in the shape of crash recovered exhibits which would undeniably prove the existence of these objects" is disturbing. If there had been a crash, Twining would have known about it, yet here, in September 1947, about ten or eleven weeks after the Roswell crash, Twining was denying there had been any crash recovered debris.

It would be nice if everything in the UFO field was cut and dried, but it isn't. This letter, sent to Brigadier General George Schulgen was only classified as secret and because of that, nothing in it would be classified higher. If, for example, they had wanted to include a single sentence that was classified top secret, then the whole document would have to be classified at the higher level. That it was only secret the document could contain nothing that was top secret.

What this means is that it could include nothing about the Roswell crash, if it happened because such information would be top secret. This provides some "wiggle room" for those of us who believe the Roswell crash happened because Twining, to answer the questions put to him about the nature of UFOs, could accomplish the creation of a program to study them without having to admit that something had fallen at Roswell.

If this reasoning seems too tortured, let me phrase it this way. Twining would have given the assignment to respond to Schulgen to a subordinate who was unaware of the Roswell crash. He answered the questions, suggested the

creation of a program to study them (probably at Twining's direction) and gave the finished product to Twining for review. Nothing was gained by up-grading the classification by adding material about the crash, so Twining let it go, knowing full well that one important bit of information had been left out (or more to the point, obscured), but by doing so he neither wrecked the chances for further study nor risked the potential compromise of top secret material. It wouldn't be the first time in military history that something like that had been done for security reasons. These officers who had served during the Second World War would be well aware of this.

Air Intelligence Report No. 100-203-79

This report was officially entitled "Analysis of Flying Object Incidents in the U.S.," dated 10 December 1948, and was originally classified as Top Secret. Apparently it was a joint effort between the Directorate of Intelligence of the Air Force and the Office of Naval Intelligence.

This was a report created to brief high-ranking officers on the unidentified flying object situation. It seems that the officers creating such a document would have access to all the classified information needed to accurately assess the situation. They would be in a position tell their superiors everything they knew, or could discover, about UFOs, regardless of how highly classified that information might be. And, according to the thinking of many, if Roswell represented the crash of an alien spacecraft, it would be mentioned in this report. Because there was no mention of a crash in this report, many skeptics have suggested that this alone proves there was no flying saucer crash outside Roswell.

The purpose of the study, according to the document itself was "TO EXAMINE patterns of tactics of 'Flying Saucers' (hereinafter referred to as flying objects) and to develop conclusions as to the possibility of existence."

Under facts and discussions, the report said, "THE POSSIBILITY that reported observations of flying objects over the U.S. were influenced by previous sightings of unidentified phenomena in Europe [probably a reference to the Ghost Rockets of 1946]… and that the observers reporting such incidents may have been interested in obtaining personal publicity…. However, these possibilities seem to be improbable when certain selected reports such as the one from U.S. Weather Bureau at Richmond are examined. During the observations of weather balloons at the Richmond Bureau, one well trained observer has sighted strange metallic disks on three occasions and another observer has sighted a similar object on one occasion…. On all four occasions the weather balloon and the unidentified objects were in view through a theodolite…."

The report included an interesting paragraph about the origins of the objects. It said, "THE ORIGIN of the devices is not ascertainable. There are two reasonable possibilities: (1) The objects are domestic devices, and if so, their identification or origin can be established by a survey of the launchings of airborne devices… (2) Objects are foreign, and if so, it would seem most logical to consider that they are from a Soviet source…"

The conclusions drawn by the authors, at the bottom of page two, and marked top secret, were, "SINCE the Air Force is responsible for control of the air in the defense of the U.S., it is imperative that all other agencies cooperate in confirming or denying the possibility that these objects are of domestic origin. Otherwise, if it is firmly indicated that there is no domestic explanation, the objects are a threat and warrant more active efforts of identification and interception."

And finally, the report said, "IT MUST be accepted that some type of flying

objects have been observed, although their identification and origin are not discernible. In the interest of national defense it would be unwise to overlook the possibility that some of these objects are of foreign origin."

This document, because of who prepared it and where it was directed would be a complete summary of the UFO situation. Such a summary would have to include mention of the Roswell case and since it doesn't, this suggests that there was nothing unusual about Roswell. It was, according to many skeptics, a Project Mogul balloon array so there was no reason to bring it up. Mogul had been responsible for no airborne sightings, and the wreckage recovered was identified immediately. In other words, Mogul didn't fit into the context of the report and therefore there was no reference to anything near Roswell.

There is one fact that is important when reviewing this document. There are events left out of the Air Intelligence Report, because, according to the officers, they did not have access to all areas of military secrecy. The authors admitted, subtly, that they did not have all the privileged information they needed. The report, by itself, does not prove that Roswell UFO crash didn't happen, or that these officers were lying to their superiors if it did. They didn't know about Roswell, didn't have access to that highly restricted information and therefore, couldn't include it because they simply didn't know about it. The key here is their admission they didn't have access to *everything*.

The McCoy Notes

The Scientific Advisory Board conference, chaired by rocket scientist Theodore von Karmen, was held on March 17 and 18, 1948 at the Pentagon in the Washington, D.C. area. In attendance, along with a number of high-ranking Air Force officers was Colonel Howard McCoy. He was there to talk about recently captured equipment including a Soviet made IL-7 aircraft, and to give the latest information on Project Sign, which was the first of the UFO investigations created by the Air Force.

The relevant paragraph from the document is, "We have a new project — Project Sign — which may surprise you as a development from the so-called mass hysteria of the past Summer when we had all the unidentified flying objects [so much for Captain Ed Ruppelt's claim he invented the term] or discs. This can't be laughed off. We have over 300 reports which haven't been publicized in the papers from very competent personnel, in many instances — men as capable as Dr. K. D. Wood, and practically all Air Force and Airline people with broad experience. We are running down every report. *I can't even tell you how much we would give to have one of those crash in an area so that we could recover whatever they are* [emphasis added]."

Remember, this was a briefing to the highest ranking of the Air Force hierarchy by a man who was the Chief of T-2, the Air Materiel Command's intelligence division. McCoy should have known if there was anything to the Roswell case and he would have said something about it in this environment. It is difficult to believe that McCoy would be less than candid with these people or that he would have been cut out of the loop. If he felt the need to safeguard the Roswell information, the best course would be not to mention it. Here he is saying that no such crash took place.

Not long after that, in a letter dated October 7, 1948, McCoy told the CIA, that, "To date, *no concrete evidence* [emphasis added] as to the exact identity of any of the reported objects has been received. Similarly, the origin of the so-called 'flying discs' remains obscure."

This is not quite as devastating as the earlier note simply because he didn't say they didn't have one, only that no evidence of the identity or of the origin had been found. Crash debris by itself certainly wouldn't have provided that sort of information unless there were star charts included that had been deciphered. Yes, that's splitting a fine hair, but sometimes, in government work, the words are chosen very carefully to give one impression which is false, even though the statements are true.

And, just so we have a good look at what McCoy put out there, is a letter by McCoy dated November 8. He wrote, "So far *no physical evidence of the existence* [emphasis added] of the unidentified sightings has been obtained… The possibility that the reported objects are vehicles from another planet has not been

ignored. However, *tangible evidence to support conclusions about such a possibility are completely lacking* [emphasis added]…"

In the end, we can spin a couple of the comments if we want and suggest that they are not definitive. We can suggest that while these comments are true, they really don't answer the crashed saucer question.

However, when we get to "I can't even tell you how much we would give to have one of those crash in an area so that we could recover whatever they are," we run into some problems. I suppose we could point out, as it was repeatedly during the Washington Post investigation of Watergate this is a sort of "non-denial denial." It doesn't say one didn't crash, only suggested that the Air Force (now that it was a separate service) would give quite a bit if one would crash for them to recover…

But the November 8 letter seems to take away all possibility of spin. He states they had no physical evidence, and tangible evidence to suggest the UFOs are from another planet is lacking. This is devastating… unless there is a reason to believe that McCoy would have been kept out of the loop, and to be honest, I can think of none.

In the end I've split a few fine hairs here but am left without explanation for McCoy's strong words (thought later on we'll see some evidence that suggests McCoy might not have been in the center of the Roswell investigation). If not for a variety of other evidence, this would seem to be the very end of the Roswell UFO crash.

Captain Lorenzo Kent Kimball

In the late 1990s, a new witness surfaced who suggested that nothing at all happened at the base in Roswell, especially at the base hospital, and he would know because he was there. Captain Lorenzo Kent Kimball was indeed assigned to the base hospital as a Medical Supply Officer and his picture does appear in the Yearbook. That put him into the base hospital and he should have been aware of any unusual activity there because he would have been in the center of it. Or so he would have us believe.

Instead, he wrote, "Most of the medical staff spent their time at the Officer's Club swimming pool every afternoon after duty hours. The biggest excitement was the cut-throat hearts game in the BOQ and an intense bingo, bango bungo golf game at the local nine hole golf course for a nickel a point!! There was absolutely NO unusual activity on the Base…"

He also presents some facts about what Don Schmitt and I wrote about the crash, the alleged autopsy in the base hospital, and Jesse Johnson who was assigned as one of the doctors in 1947. Kimball wrote:

1. There was a physician named Jesse B. Johnson assigned to the Base Hospital. However, he was a 1st Lt., not a Major, and he was a radiologist, not a pathologist. He had no training as a pathologist and would have been the last member of the medical staff to have performed any autopsy on a human much less an alien. He is identified as a 1st Lt. In the 509th Yearbook.

2. After I learned of these assertions, I called Doctor Jack Comstock, who, as a Major, was the Hospital Commander in 1947, and in 1995 was living in retirement in Boulder, Colorado. I asked him if he recalled any such events occurring in July of 1947 and he said absolutely not. When I told him that Jesse B. Was supposed to have conducted a preliminary autopsy on alien bodies, he had a hard time stopping laughing — his response was: PREPOSTEROUS!!

Kimball also takes us, meaning Schmitt and me, and Stan Friedman and Don Berliner, to task for identifying a two story brick building as the base hospital. Well, according to Glenn Dennis it was, and according to documentation, it was. The problem is that it was not built until after 1947, and that might give us a clue about what Kimball could have seen. In 1947, the base hospital was made up of a number of different, one story buildings clustered together in an nice neat, military formation. In other words, you could work in one building and not know what was happening in the others. That we all got this wrong is true, but it's not as if we invented the information for the sake of the story.

But let's talk about Jesse Johnson. Here, I'm going to run into a little bit of a problem and it's going to seem as if I'm trying to shift blame, but I am tired of taking flack for mistakes that others made. I will point out here that Schmitt, because of his claimed background as a medical illustrator (a story I believed because he insisted it was true until I learned otherwise) did the background

check on Johnson because it seemed a natural. He would know where to go and he supplied the information that we originally published about Johnson. Later, I decided to look the stuff up myself.

I learned, during 1947, First Lieutenant Jesse Johnson was assigned to the base hospital at the Roswell Army Air Field. There is no evidence that he played any role in the alleged autopsies of alien beings found near there in July 1947, though his name has been connected to it.

Information published suggested that Johnson, a pathologist in 1947, was called upon to perform, or assist in the performance of preliminary autopsies conducted at the base hospital. That information was based on two flawed tales. One of them was by Glenn Dennis, who claimed that he had known a nurse assigned to the base in 1947 and she told him about the autopsies.

The other assumption was that in 1947, Johnson was a pathologist. Using the source that Schmitt had used, The *ABMS Compendium of Medical Specialists*, I learned that in 1947, Johnson had just completed his medical training. He had no training as a pathologist in 1947 so there was no reason to suspect that he would have been brought in to assist in the autopsies.

In fact, the information available suggests that Johnson did, eventually train as a pathologist at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston from 1948 to 1949. In other words, he did not have the training in 1947 but completed it after his military service. That he began the training so soon after his military service suggests an interest in it, but certainly doesn't translate into participation in any alien autopsies.

An interview conducted with his wife in the early 1990s revealed nothing to suggest that Johnson was ever involved in the recovery of alien bodies, or the autopsy of them. She had no knowledge of any connection between her husband and the U.S. government. The fact he had once trained as a pathologist seems to have confused the issue. Dr. Johnson died in 1988.

Finally, Kimball wrote, "I got to know General Blanchard very well as an officer under his command at Roswell AAF and with the 7th Air Division. He was, as his record surely reflects, an outstanding officer, who was highly respected. According to Lt. Haut's testimony about the event, Colonel Blanchard ordered him to issue a press release announcing that a "flying disk" have (sic) been recovered. While I am sure this is how Lt. Haut remembers it, I would argue that this [is] not the action that a responsible commander would have taken given the importance of such a discovery…"

Say what he will, the truth of the matter is that a news release was prepared and issued and in the absence of evidence to the contrary it must be concluded that Blanchard ordered it. There is no indication that Haut was reprimanded for the release, which certainly would have happened had he issued the release on his own. Kimball is speculating here with no foundation.

Kimball raised some good points but his conclusion that nothing happened because he saw nothing and no one he talked to had seen anything is flawed. I've

already pointed out that many officers, including several generals, say otherwise. Kimball's attitude and his arrogance comes through in his writing. His information needs to be balanced against that from so many others who say differently.

And a final point to be made was that Kimball, while assigned to the hospital was not a doctor himself. He was a medical supply officer. His expertise in ordering equipment might be sought by the doctors and nurses, but in the matter of an alien autopsy and highly classified medical matters, he would certainly be out of the loop.

Last Comments Here

We have now looked at some of the evidence that suggests nothing happened at Roswell, or rather nothing extraordinary. I am tempted to leave it at that, but wonder if a few additional comments might not be necessary here. After all, we have seen, from a variety of important, trained, and trusted people that they believe something fell.

The evidence supporting the idea of a crash has been put forward in other sections and is there for all to see. Most of it is testimony from men who were directly involved, and from the families of men involved. Such evidence is important, sometimes persuasive, and sometimes inaccurate.

We have some documentation about the crash, including the first press release that suggests something extraordinary fell at Roswell. And there is some persuasive documentation, from those who should know, suggesting that nothing fell. In the end, it is up to each reader to decide what evidence is important, what is trivial, what is inaccurate and what is persuasive. Only then can we begin to move forward.

Chapter Nine: General Ramey and the Smoking Gun

When we begin to look for documentation for the Roswell case, there is very little available. There are the newspaper articles, a few that suggest what was found was unusual and might explain the flying saucers, and then many that explained it all just a weather balloon. Within hours of the announcement that the officers in Roswell had "captured" a flying saucer, Brigadier General Ramey explained it all away. Pictures of the weather balloon, on the floor in Ramey's office, were published around the country. One day Roswell was the site of a major historical event and the next it returned to a back water town in the New Mexican desert where people couldn't tell the extraordinary from the mundane.

Decades later, however, that all might have changed given the photographs taken by *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* reporter/ photographer, J. Bond Johnson in Ramey's office. Johnson posed Ramey near the debris while he held a piece of paper in his hand. Looking at a regular 8 x 10 glossy print of the picture, you can seen a faint smudge on the paper, and if you have a blow up and a magnifying glass, you can see lines of text. Some of the words seem to be almost readable.

First Attempts to Read the Memo

Brad Sparks might be the first researcher to have recognized this. In 1980, looking at a blow up of one of the photographs, he thought he could see "balloon" or more appropriately "baloons" in the message. Five years later, in 1985 he thought he could make out "weather balloons."

In 1991, Don Schmitt sent a copy of that photograph to Dr. Richard Haines, a former NASA research scientist, asking if he could read anything on the paper. Haines, using a microscope scanned the message, reporting that he could see vague words but could not make out the individual letters of those words. In a few cases, he could identify a random letter but that was no help in understanding what might be printed on the paper. Haines thought that a better quality, or bigger enlargement of the photograph, might reveal more of the message, but didn't seem to think it would be of much real use.

Haines' less than spectacular results were strange. Using a magnifying glass and a good quality print, several words were visible including Fort Worth, Txe (which is apparently a mistyped abbreviation Tex.) Elsewhere there were two words that looked like weather balloon, though balloon was also misspelled.

During its investigation into all matters Roswell in the mid1990s, the Air Force, according to the report written by Colonel Richard Weaver, "… also noted that in the two photos of Ramey he had a piece of paper in his hand. In one, it was folded over so nothing could be seen. In the second, however, there appears to be text printed on the paper. In an attempt to read this text to determine if it could shed any further light on locating documents relating to this matter, the photo was sent to a national-level organization for digitizing and subsequent photo interpretation and analysis. This organization was also asked to scrutinize the digitized photos for any indication of flowered tape (or 'hieroglyphics,' depending on the point of view) that were reputed to be visible to some of the persons who observed the wreckage prior to its getting to Fort Worth. This organization reported on July 20, 1994, that even after digitizing, the photos were of insufficient quality to visualize either of the details sought for analysis…"

This seems to be the epitome of incompetence, but then, there might be reasons for that particular conclusion, as we'll learn later. Clearly words can be read on the paper. Even with just a magnifying glass, some of the words are legible. But Weaver was happy with his report that said nothing could be gained from studying the photographs.

Granted, this conclusion was made in a world without blogs and it is obvious from the interviews conducted (or not conducted) in the Air Force investigation that there was an agenda working. However, this national organization, which was not identified, had their orders. They were to see nothing on the paper and nothing is what they saw.

Attempts by researchers using Freedom of Information to obtain copies of the

report were unsuccessful. Since this was not, at least to the official statements, a matter of national security, there should have been no reason to refuse to release the report. Air Force officials suggested that it had somehow become lost in the months after its creation. Independent researchers would later duplicate the effort and the results obtained during the experiments surprised them.

That was where the matter rested until 1998 when J. Bond Johnson, who had taken six of the seven photographs in General Ramey's office back in 1947, decided to get involved in the investigation of Roswell. Johnson put together a team, the Roswell Photo Interpretation Team (RPIT) to inspect the photographs that included Ron Regehr, a space and satellite engineer and Neil Morris, a technician who works for the University of Manchester in England. Using a huge 16 x 20 blow up of the photograph, a computer and a variety of software and camera equipment, they were able to see more of the message that Ramey held. Or rather, they claimed that they could read the message with some degree of certainty. They were certainly better at it than the national organization contracted by the Air Force.

In the upper left-hand corner of the paper, they saw what they believed to be the image of a telephone and concluded that Ramey was holding a "telephone message sheet" because of this "telephone logo." They then claimed to have "positively identified a number of words in the message." There were, quite naturally, gaps in what they could see given the bending of the paper and the angle of the photograph, and they noted that the message had been typed in all capital letters.

Their interpretation of the message was:

> " AS THE… 4 HRS THE VICTIMS OF THE… AT FORT WORTH, TEX… THE "CRASH" STORY… FOR 0984 ACKNOWLEDGES… EMERGENCY POWERS ARE NEEDED SITE TWO SW OF MAGDALENA, NMEX… SAFE TALK… FOR MEANING OF STORY AND MISSION… WEATHER BALLOONS SENT ON THE… AND LAND… ROVER CREWS… [SIGNED]… TEMPLE."

If what they found was accurate, and others could corroborate what they had seen, then it was a breakthrough on the Roswell case. Here was a document with an indisputable provenance. General Ramey was holding it in his hand, and copies of the photograph put out over the INS wire provided a time and a date. According to a copy of the photograph that I acquired from the Bettmann Photo Archives in New York City, J. Bond Johnson had taken the picture on July 8, 1947, and it had been transmitted at 11:59 P.M., or one minute before midnight on that date.

But, there were gaps in what they could read, and some of the phrases they spotted made little sense in the context of what else could be seen. However, the

reference to victims, to weather balloons, and to Magdalena, New Mexico, were important clues. These words seemed to tie the message to the Roswell events, and suggested that some kind of a quick response was required by the military, either at 8th Air Force headquarters in Fort Worth, or by the 509 th Bomb Group in Roswell.

Here, I suppose I should point out that Johnson, at one time, claimed that the document held by Ramey was, in fact, the teletype notice that had gone to the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. Johnson said that he wanted Ramey to be holding something and handed it to him. Later Johnson recanted this, as he did so much of what he said originally. However, it should be noted that the document held by Ramey might not even be a military document but something that came from the civilian world.

Others began to request copies of the pictures from the Special Collections in Texas. To the delight of many, they could also see letters, words and images as suggested by Johnson and his team. The problem was that many of those doing the work were not seeing the same words and phrases as Johnson and his team.

For example, the telephone logo that Johnson's team reported, looked more like a gray smudge on the paper than anything else. One well-known UFO researcher said that the telephone resembled the Liberty Bell as seen on the back of a Franklin half dollar rather than a telephone.

Here I think we need to divert the discussion just a bit. This document, if it is what it is alleged to be, that is a message about a spaceship crash, it would be classified, probably Top Secret. Here's the problem. There is little that looks like it was stamped as Top Secret. There are no real indications on the paper of any classification, though the regulations governing this were quite clear in 1947.

Tom Printy, addressing the question of the Top Secret markings wrote, "[David] Rudiak [a researcher who has spent hundreds of hours examining the photograph] claims that it is TOP SECRET because he has found markings at the bottom of the page that look like some of the letters in TOP SECRET. If you look at the 600dpi image he presents on his website, those sections he describes as indicating the "TOP SECRET" mark are very faint and highly subjective in nature. This is not something you would expect from a prominent mark even if it were not viewed from the best angle. After all, one can see much of the logo at the top of the page clearly in the image. Why can't one see the prominent marks from a TOP SECRET stamp? In my naval experience, classification stamps are usually very large bold and heavy type that was in the top center and bottom center of the document on both FRONT and BACK of the page, even if one side of the page was BLANK (Often such a page was labeled in the center 'intentionally left blank'). The only time this was not the case was when a message had just been received/transmitted at the teletype printer. In this situation the classification was found in the header of the message (something Rudiak's message does not have). Prior to routing and leaving the secure area of the printer, stamps were applied to the documents or the documents were placed in folders that were appropriately

stamped. These prominent marks were for ease of identification in case the document fell in the garbage can or was carelessly left adrift by somebody who was not paying attention to the rules."

Rudiak, for his part, in an email to me disputes this, insisting that he has found a top secret marking, though it is off center. He also notes that he has found other classified documents on which the classification stamp is off center. To be fair, in the examples he mentioned to me, the off center stamp is on letters rather than message traffic, or is a note that a document belongs in the top secret file but is not, itself, a classification mark.

The real point is, however, that when dealing with millions of pages of classified documents over more than a half century, exceptions to the rules can be found. Printy's point is valid, but does not prove that the reading of the Ramey memo is inaccurate.

Moving back to the telephone logo and other aspects of the message, we see that Neil Morris' interpretation of the symbols did not agree exactly with that made by other components of Johnson's team. He did do one thing that was beneficial to all researchers and that was break down the message line by line so that it would be easy to follow his interpretation. He used capital letters to represent the parts of the message of which he was sure, lower case letters to represent his best guess of some letters, an asterisk to denote a letter he couldn't decipher, and a dash where there was little more than a smudge on the message.

Morris' interpretation of the message was:

(1) ————***ARY WERE ————AS
(2)————fxs 4 rsev1 VICTIMS OF THE WR eck and CONVAY ON TO
(3)———-*** AT FORT WORTH, Txe.
(4)————***S** smi Ths *ELSE* ***** unus-d**e T&E A3ea96 L******
(5)———-SO ught CRASHE s pOw*** *** N***** SITEOne IS reMotely *****
(6)———-***D* bAsE ToLd ***a* for we**ous BY STORY are 8*****
(7)———lly thry even PUT FOR BY WEATHER BALLOONS n*d** were
(8)————**** **la** l***denver*****
(9)
(10) Temple

It was not an exact match for what Johnson had released and in fact, went off at a couple of brand new angles. In this version, while the word victims remained, as did the Fort Worth, Texas, nearly everything else was different. One of the major points in the Johnson version was the wording that suggested, "Emergency

Powers are needed Site Two SW of Magdalena, NMex." It suggested that those interpreting the message were seeing, to some extent, what they wanted to see.

In still a different version, Rudiak, suggested only a little of what others had seen. In one of his earlier interpretations, and using the same mix of capitals for what he was sure of and lower case for what he suspected, and brackets to suggest alternative words and phrases, he reported the message read:

(1) ———— officer
(2) —-(jul)y 4th the VictIMs of tHE weECK you fOrWArdEd TO The
(3) ——EaM At FORT WORTH, TEX.
(4) ——5 pM THE "DISC" they will ship [swap?] FOR A3 8th Arrived.
(5) — or 58t(h) bom(be)r sq(?) Assit [Assess] offices? AT ROSwe(ll) AS for
(6) —54th SAID MIStaken——[meaning? weather? balloon?] of [is] story And said
(7) news [clip, chat, dirt] out is OF WEATHER BALLOONS which were
(8)—- Add [And, Ask] land d——-[dirt cover?] crews.
(9)
(10) rAMEy

Rudiak, in his interpretation, here, was attempting to puzzle out the overall meaning rather than just identify various words. His attempts to this point made the most sense, in the context of trying to find a reasonable interpretation, but it did not clarify much.

Others Enter the Arena

Those weren't, of course, the only alternative interpretations that were offered. Russ Estes, a California documentarian and UFO researcher, using a 16 x 20 print made by the University of Texas Library, applied his expertise to the examination. Estes used a professional quality $50,000 video camera with a $7500 macro lens to capture the image. Then using his huge, $80,000 computer and a variety of technically complex and professional quality software programs, he examined the message every way that he could think of including a jeweler's loup, magnifying glass and microscope. He even scanned it at 9000 dpi so that it created a file that was 1.7 gigabits in size and could be manipulated and enlarged even further (which seems like something that national organization the Air Force mentioned should have been able to do). Estes said that he could seen nothing that he would be willing to swear to in court. He said there was simply nothing there to see which is surprisingly like what that national organization had told the Air Force several years earlier.

Pressed on the point, because others were seeing all sorts of words and phrases, Estes did say that he could make a "best guess" about the images on the message. Looking at an 8 x 10 photographic blow up of just the message area, using the same techniques and equipment, he could see with a limited amount of confidence, "Fort Work, Tex." On the line below that where one group saw "Disk" and another saw, "ELSE," Estes believed he saw, "ELA*". He did say that it made no sense to him, just that was what the ambiguous smudges that everyone was attempting to make into words looked like to him.

It probably should be noted here that Estes, unofficially, talked of seeing other words as well. He was reluctant to add his interpretations to the already cloudy issue. It helped no one, and added nothing to our knowledge for him to speculate beyond what, to him, was definitive.

As for the signature block, he could see nothing that resembled either of the claims. At best, there might have been an "M" in the middle of the word, and the possibility of an "LE" at the end. That gave the nod to "Temple."

So let's think back to the Air Force "national laboratory" that couldn't come up with anything. Isn't that basically what Estes was saying here. Yes, there were words that seemed to stand out, but those were the words we all could see with the magnifying glass. Estes couldn't see anything that was buried in the smudges of charcoal that made up the other words. It was the same thing that Haines had said, though he was not using the same quality of equipment as the others.

That wasn't, of course, the end of it. Schmitt, now working with Tom Carey from Pennsylvania and sometimes in communication with Don Burleson of Roswell, came up with their own interpretation of the message. Burleson, writing in the January 7, 2000 issue of *Vision*, a monthly magazine published by the *Roswell Daily Record*, noted, "A number of attempts have been made to read the

Ramey letter. Quite frankly, most of these attempts are amateurish, and even some UFOlogists have concluded that there is nothing in the Ramey image that advances the case for the Roswell incident. They are mistaken."

Burleson wrote that he had spent a year working on deciphering the letter. He said that he had the advantage of being the director of a computer lab and that he had a background in cryptanalysis. According to him, "I'm quite used to reading things that I wasn't meant to read."

Burleson wrote that he had been using several excellent computer image enhancement software packages, "including LUCIS, the most advanced software used today in such fields as microscopy." Burleson was suggesting that he used very expensive equipment and very advanced software. To hear Burleson tell it, his was the most sophisticated analysis attempted to date and his results were spectacular.

Burleson, who didn't provide a line by line breakdown, wrote, "Here is my reading, so far… (Indeterminate parts of words are indicated by hyphens, and missing words are indicated by parentheses.) A few spots are a bit tentative, but essentially the letter reads":

> (1) RECO — OPERATION WITH ROSWELL DISK 074 MJ
> (2) — AT THE ()() THE VICTIMS OF THE WRECK YOU FORWARDED TO THE (3) TEAM AT FORT WORTH, TEX.
> (4) () ON THE "DISK" MUST HAVE SENT LOS ALAMOS ADVANCED ()
> (5) URGENT. POWERS ARE NEEDED SITE TWO AT CARLSBAD, NMEX.
> (6) () SAFE TALK NEWSPAPER MEANING OF STORY AND
> (7) ONLY SHOW ()() BY WEATHER BALLOONS () WAVE () ()
> (8) L — DENVER CREWS
> (9)
> (10) TEMPLE

But, once again, the reading of the message wasn't universally accepted. UFO researcher Stan Friedman contacted Rob Belyea, the owner of ProLab, asking him to examine high resolution scans made of the negative. Friedman had actually paid someone in Fort Worth to hand carry the original negatives (which by now were becoming dirty and scratched because of all the handling) from the Special Collections to a computer lab to have these scans made. The results were then sent on to Friedman who supplied them to Belyea. Belyea said that he couldn't spend hours examining the message but that he could rule out or confirm the interpretations made by others by using his software to decide on character count and combinations of letters. It was not at all unlike the work being done by Russ Estes in California, though Estes was actually trying to read the message

rather than just confirm other interpretations.

While Friedman stood on the sidelines watching and not commenting on the research, Belyea did say specifically that he could not see "Magdalena" in the text as the first part of the Johnson team had suggested. Belyea did say, "They're pulling off all sorts of [readings], but they're making some of it up."

There is an additional problem, only partially addressed in the search of the message. This probably was a military message sent from one military installation to another, which means there might have been some military jargon in it. The attempts at reading it have failed to account for any military jargon and that might have confounded the process. Originally, the closest is Rudiak's attempt to place military unit designations into the message. He noted in one place where he thought 58 or 58th bomber squadron might have been indicated. He also located a second place where 54th SAID could indicate some kind of a military unit, although no one has yet located a unit with that designation.

Rudiak himself noted that what he thought as "5 PM" made no sense because the military would have used the twenty-four hour clock and it would have said, "1700 Hrs" rather than "5 PM." That is a valid point.

Interestingly, Rudiak noted there was no law that said a military communication had to be loaded with jargon. He wrote to me that Brad Sparks had sent him a top-secret telex from General Walsh to General LeMay concerning a nuclear accident with very little jargon in it. I find it interesting because it contains some jargon but not an overwhelming amount.

But my point was that few, if any of the researchers were looking for jargon which could have changed their interpretations of the message. True, it might contain none, which wouldn't, of course rule it out as a military message, but it might contain quite a bit and no one seemed to have addressed that problem.

"Victims of the Wreck"

Over the years, these interpretations of the message have circulated through the UFO community and that is a point that is sometimes overlooked. If you look at the message closely and know where to look, it certainly seems that the word victims appears right where they all say it does. And if victims is in that message, then many other interpretations of the content of the message are simply wrong.

Another study, reported in the *Minnesota MUFON Journal*, in issue #102 and dated July/Aug 2003, provides an interesting diversion from the classical interpretation. Bill McNeff and Glenn Fishbine decided they too would attempt to read the Ramey Memo and their results change, to some extent, the importance of it.

They note that theirs is a preliminary study and then wrote, "Ten different types of image restoration techniques were employed in an effort to make this message more readable. They are highly technical and will not be detailed in this article."

Which, of course, opens them up for criticism simply because we can ask, how valid are their techniques if they don't tell us what they are. It can also be noted that sometimes a detailed description of the technical aspects of a study inhibit the reporting of it, and, they do provide some clues about what they looked at in their study.

Rudiak, for example, made some assumptions that are important to his interpretation of the memo. McNeff and Fishbine wrote, "First of all, we do not agree with the 'established' character count, especially at the end because of the creases [in the memo]. Second, while we agree with the interpretation of some letters found by others, there are a significant # (sic) of cases where their reading of a letter was a reading of a film grain pattern. In some cases we were able to find text in the grain background. Also, some of the other readings came from grain patterns above, below, or to the right of the actual letters. Third, a lot of the readings came from what looks like a photoshop gaussian blur of one of the original scans. That kind of blur creates some amazing artifacts & (sic) psychological interpretations. We avoided the blurring at all costs."

So now we have another study like that done by Estes, that is suggesting that people might be seeing what they want to see. In fact, the key word, "victims" is not one that they identified. They wrote, in discussing their methods, "It was especially good on a few letters. It brought out the E in REMAINS very clearly."

That is "remains" instead of "victims." Rather thanseeing "The victims of the wreck," they saw, "The remains of the wreck…" And that changes the meaning because remains could refer to the weather balloon debris rather than living creatures that were killed.

Rudiak had reported on his web site that victims was the only word that fit into context of the six letter word that began with a "v". What could the word be if

it was not victims? But if the first letter is an artifact of blurring and psychological interpretation, then Rudiak's argument based on the first letter being a "v" is flawed.

“Priming” of the Victims

Unfortunately, we all have now been “primed” to see the word. There might be other interpretations that if conducted by those who have yet to be contaminated could tell us something. That was the basis of an experiment designed and conducted by James Houran, then a psychologist in Illinois. With my help, he gathered a cross section of people to review photographic enlargements of message. There were three groups and three conditions. One group was told that the message related to the Roswell UFO crash. One group was told that the memo related to atomic testing. And the control group was told nothing about the contents, only asked if they could read any of the words.

Yes, there were some words that were made out easily. Fort Worth, Tex., weather baloons (sic) and the like. But the critical word, that is, victims, was not seen by any of the subjects. And, those who were told the message was about an atomic test rather than a spaceship crash saw words like flash, which related to the atomic test but that has surfaced in none of the interpretations of the message by UFO researchers.

This suggests that “priming” or contamination, might have some affect one what people see. The results were laid out in an article for the *Journal of Scientific Exploration* in the Spring, 2002 issue.

There is one problem, or rather one that some of the proponents of reading the message make about the experiment. Through error, one of the student assistants threw out the raw data after copying it onto the score sheets. Yes, the raw data should have been saved, but then the data, in a finer state was preserved. Does this negate the experiment? No.

It does however, complicate the matter. Not long ago I was looking at the records about the J. B. Rhine experiments into ESP. Questions about the statistical study were raised and much of the data were reviewed. What was found was that in some cases the graduate students and the post-docs running the experiments had “fudged” the data. Without the preliminary information properly preserved, we wouldn’t have known that.

Now, we must expect those reviewing our data will accept that the raw data was transcribed properly and without error. While there is no evidence that any of the numbers were fudged, and those running the experiment did not know what results were expected, it does throw a bit of a cloud over the work.

I suppose I should also note that the time each of the subjects spent trying to read the message was about twenty minutes. Rudiak pointed out that he had spent months on his work, that he used the best copies of the photographs possible and the best computer programs. It’s not quite the same as a student trying to read the message off a computer screen in twenty minutes. His work should count for more.

But the point is that without priming, no one identified the critical word,

which is victims. None of them. Though they were using some of the best images available they were unable to see that specific word. This suggests that a second experiment should be preformed to determine the validity of the results of those reading the Ramey memo.

So, the experiment conducted suggested that priming might have lead to some researchers seeing the critical word victims. But it should also be noted that researchers did, independently, pick out some of the more obscured words. In fact, Rudiak, in an email to me suggested there was more consensus than disagreement. And he notes that there is more agreement in context than there is in precise wording.

Agreement in the Wording

Rudiak wrote, “We do have some important points of agreement. Brad [Sparks] and I *totally independently of one another* [emphasis in the original] picked out the words, ‘disc’ and ‘Roswell’ in the body of the message (‘Roswell’ where the RPIT group saw the obviously erroneous word ‘Magdalena,’ which is too long). We both agree on the Ramey signature, that the message is definitely military, and that the end of the message is about the cover-up. Sparks also agrees that the address heading may contain ‘Vandenberg’ (though disagrees that the message would be directly addressed to him).”

Rudiak did post his reconstruction of the message and details of his analysis to this web site http://roswellproof.homestead.com. While it does agree with some of the other interpretations, it also goes off at its own angles in some places.

Rudiak, using the system developed by Neil Morris, and expanding it, finally produced this interpretation:

> (A) URGENt (B) HQAAF
> C) WAShiNGton
> (D) 8 Jul 1947
> (E) VANDENBERG
> (F) FROM hQ 8 th aaf
> (G) suB: roswell
> (0) fWAAf AcKNOWleDGEs THAT a “DISK iS NEXT NEW FIND WEST of (1) the CordOn at locATION Was A wreck NEAR OPErAtion AT THE in addiTION “pod”
> (2) ranCH” AnD THE VICTIMS OF THE WRECK YOU FORWARDED TO THE (3) teAm AT FORT WORTH, TEX.
> (4) aviAToRS IN THE “DISC” THEY WILL SHIP FOR A1- 8 TH ARMY amhc (5) bY B29 — ST OR C47 WrIGht AF ASSeSs airFOil AT ROSWELL ASSURDED ASSiSt fly-Out
> (6) That CiC/TEAM SAID THIS MISSTATE MEANING OF THE STORY AND THINK (7) laTE TODAY NEXT SENT OUT PR OF WEATHER BALLOON WoulD FarE (8) better iF THEY ADD LAND DemoRAWIN CREWS
> (9) RAMEY
> (10) top SeCRet

So, in the context of the message, as read by Rudiak, it does make sense and terms, such as “safe talk” which no one was able to define, has been replaced by “that CIC/team.” He has created an interpretation that is grammatically correct and seems to account for all the words in the memo.

But this agreement that Rudiak talks about doesn’t seem to be in existence.

We've already seen that McNeff and Fishbine thought the word was "Remains." John Kirby, writing to me in 1999, independently thought the word was "Remains."

On a completely different note, Brad Sparks thought the word was "Finding." Rather than reading the "Victims of the Wreck," Sparks believed it to be "The Finding of the Major," which, I suppose would be the finding of Major Marcel.

A New Experiment

Then Jim Houran entered the picture again. At the end of the first experiment, which was a test for priming, he suggested that qualified laboratories, those that have some expertise in looking at "ambiguous stimuli," that is, the sort of image that we have on the Ramey Memo take a look at it. He thought that by not giving the labs the context of the memo, they wouldn't be influenced by other attempts to read it. After all, the Internet is full of information and interpretations of the Ramey Memo.

In a report, *A Search for Meaning in the Ramey Document From the Roswell UFO Case*, Houran noted that an Independent Triangulated Analysis might just answer some of the questions and could corroborate some of the interpretations of the memo. Houran, with the support of the Fund for UFO Research, began searching for the labs to make the analysis.

Houran details the methods used to review the memo by the laboratories and then offers the conclusions of that analysis. Surprisingly, those results mirror those obtained by the Air Force during their study in the 1990s. In other words, the experts consulted by Houran, after running their various tests, scans, and analysis, concluded that nothing could be read with any degree of certainty in the Ramey Memo. Houran wrote to me, "The labs felt that no words could be read with any accuracy… However, they did say that improved methodologies might yield some legible words."

So, like the Air Force before them, these labs didn't want to make a judgement call on what they considered a stimuli too vague to define. They suggested that there was a lower limit to how much resolution there could be because the "noise" from the grains of silver in the emulsion could never be completely eliminated and that even the best labs might never be able to improve the quality of the signal. No, they didn't rule that out completely, but the fact remains that the object of the photograph was not the paper in Ramey's hand, and that the paper was turned and twisted and those distortions just might be too much of overcome.

What it seems to boil down to is that there is no real consensus on what the message says no matter how much argument there is about it. And while it can be argued that the message held by Ramey might be about the Roswell case, there really is no way to know that for certain because the stimuli is too vague to be read with any degree of certainty.

While many consider this to be the smoking gun in Roswell research, the truth is that it remains just out of our reach. Rudiak could be exactly right, but there are others, whose interpretations don't agree who also believe they are exactly right. Given the message, the all can't be exactly right and that is where the problem lies.

Chapter Ten: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

So where are we today? Is the case for an alien spacecraft crash northwest of Roswell stronger or weaker after all the investigation, all the study and all the witnesses who told stories for their own amusement? Just what does the evidence tell us about Roswell that we didn't know before and how does it help us understand the situation?

To answer these, and other similar questions, I'll make a quick recap of the strongest to weakest evidence against, and then the strongest to weakest evidence for. Each reader will have to decide for him or herself which side of the fence to come down on. Each reader will have to set his or her own standards of evidence to decide.

Finally, because it is a question that I'm asked frequently, and given the nature of the case, one that comes from the changing landscape. I'll point out which witnesses I still believe, which have been discredited to everyone's satisfaction, and give a quick opinion on some other aspects of the Roswell case. These will be, of course, those who haven't appeared in other sections of this book.

Documentation Against

To me, and I believe a large number of people, the strongest evidence against the crash is the documentation that is available in a large number of formally classified documents,especially those authored by or attributed to Colonel Howard McCoy and whose provenance is unquestioned. McCoy was, in the late 1940s, one of the few people who should have known about a flying saucer crash if one had taken place. His statements in high level meetings where the notes and minutes were kept and then classified and eventually unclassified, tell us a great deal.

McCoy's statements in late 1947 and early 1948, including "So far no physical evidence of the existence of the unidentified sightings has been obtained… The possibility that the reported objects are vehicles from another planet has not been ignored. However, tangible evidence to support conclusions about such a possibility are completely lacking…" is quite important. There is no equivocation here. He is saying that he knows of no evidence that is suggestive of an alien space craft crash. The statement is strong and positive.

Less impressive are statements in the Air Intelligence Report No. 100-203-79. While it is true that they say nothing about any crash recovered debris, it is also true that the authors report they didn't have access to everything out there. Because they didn't see everything, and because they acknowledged that they didn't see everything, it is quite possible that if Roswell was a real crash, they might not have had access to it. Although they held top secret clearances, it could be argued they didn't have the need to know this particular top secret so they were not privy to it.

Arguments then, by the skeptics, that the officers writing the report would not lie to their superiors means there was no crash do not completely work. The men writing the report were not given access to everything and therefore could write with complete honesty that there were areas they simply could not penetrate. This, unfortunately for the skeptics, leaves the door open for a crash.

Similarly, the Twining Letter is not quite as definitive as it could have been. Brigadier General Schulgen, in Washington, D.C., asked Lieutenant General Twining for an assessment of the flying saucer hysteria. Twining responded saying that the phenomenon, that is, flying saucers, is real. He also noted that they had been an absence of crash recovered debris. That seems to be a fairly strong statement because Twining, as the commander of the Air Materiel Command, and to whose facilities the recovered debris and bodies of alien creatures would have been brought according to many witnesses, would, quite naturally, have known all about it. That he mentioned the lack of crash recovered debris seems to put a nail in the Roswell coffin.

The problem here, and I freely admit it is splitting a few fine hairs, is that the original document is classified secret, that it is being prepared for a lower-

ranking officer, and that it is possible to accomplish the mission (here the establishment of an investigation into the nature of flying saucers) without revealing everything that he, Twining (or more probably, his subordinates who were told to write the letter for his signature) knows. He can, in the words of the skeptics, lie to the subordinate general without compromising the mission. In fact, he can accomplish all he wants without risking compromising the *BIG* secret.

Can we point to any examples in history? Of course. First, there was the breaking of many of the Japanese codes used during the Second World War. Those who knew this secret, and a vital, maybe the most important secret of the war in the Pacific, routinely lied to others to help keep that secret. I don't believe anyone would fault them for that.

During the Cold War the FBI had a highly classified mission called Operation Solo. An American, because the Soviets believed him to be an important communist leader in the United States, was given access to the highest levels of the Soviet leadership. He was briefed and consulted by the most powerful men in the Soviet Union about many topics, and the man known as Solo reported it all to the FBI.

This was so highly classified that even presidents didn't know about the operation. With the exception of Gerald Ford, presidents were not told where some of the most critical information they had originated (For those who want to know why Ford was told, it was because he was going to a critical meeting with his Soviet counterparts and seemed to lack confidence in the information he was given. To build up that confidence, Ford was told of the operation.) So, for Twining not to tell Schulgen everything he knew about flying saucers is not without precedence in both the civilian and military worlds.

The Air Force, apparently reacting to the probe launched by the GAO under pressure from New Mexico Congressman Steven Schiff, made their own investigations of the Roswell case in the mid-1990s. This was ordered by the then Secretary of the Air Force, Sheila E. Widnall. They produced two reports, one suggesting that what fell in Roswell was a balloon array from the then top secret Project Mogul.

In the other they included an explanation for some of the stories of the bodies which relied on the experiments conducted over New Mexico using anthropomorphic dummies. These dummies, dropped from high altitude began falling in 1952, but none fell near Roswell before 1957. The Air Force explained that "time compression" accounted for the discrepancy between the believe something had happened in 1947 and the actual events some years later.

Witnesses for the Opposition

Of lesser importance than the documentation, are some of the witnesses found by UFO researchers, or who have come forward to tell what they knew, or didn't know. Again, starting with the most important and working to the less important, we will be able to access their impact.

Former captain, Doctor (as in Ph.D) Lorenzo Kent Kimball, was the medical supply officer at Roswell in July 1947. He worked at the hospital, knew the doctors and nurses, and probably many of the enlisted men who worked there. He would have hung around with the pilots and other officers of the command and would have been in a position to know about any unusual activity at the base. He is emphatic in his opinion that nothing happened, that the story of the preliminary autopsy at Roswell is false, and that the whole idea of a flying saucer crash is without merit.

He wrote in an Internet article that he had talked to a number of pilots who were in Roswell in 1947 and all said that nothing happened. He found no one to corroborate the story and was, I suppose the right work is livid, about the suggestion that anything like a flying saucer crash had taken place in Roswell.

Of lesser importance is the interview with Bessie Brazel Schrieber who was the daughter of Mack and who said she was at the ranch in July 1947. She said that she helped her father, along with her brother Vernon, pick up the remnants of what she believes was a balloon. She said that they put everything into four burlap sacks and stored it under the porch. She said that her father didn't return to Roswell and didn't stay there over night. Her story is in conflict with not only her brother, Bill's story, but is contradicted by the newspaper articles printed in July 1947. Those articles do mention that she, her mother and brother helped clean the field, they also contain an interview with her father conducted in Roswell at the very time she said he was at home.

Finally, and probably least important is the testimony of Walt Whitmore, Jr., the man called Reluctant by Karl Pflock. When he talked to Pflock, and to me, he told of getting directions to the debris from Mack Brazel who had stayed the night at his father's house. Right here we have a conflict in the skeptical witnesses. Bessie Brazel said her father was not in Roswell overnight, yet, Whitmore said he was and saw him at his father's, Whitmore's house.

Whitmore said, that Mack Brazel told him of the wreck and gave him directions to the ranch and the Debris Field. Using those directions, he drove to the Debris Field, found it, and recovered several small pieces of debris. He told Pflock, and he told me, that what he had found were bits of balloon. For years he'd kept them in his safe deposit box, but then moved them to his house where they were stored in his "junk" room.

He was never able to produce it. He had plans to display it in Roswell and seemed unconcerned that he was on the record as saying that when he arrived at

the Debris Field, it had already been cleared by the Army.

Documentation for the UFO Crash

What might be the best piece of documentation is the Ramey Memo. We have a provenance for it because we can see Ramey holding it in a picture that we know was taken on July 8, 1947. Anyone looking at a good quality blow up of the picture can see there is writing on the document and with only a magnifying glass, we can see some words.

If the interpretation of the memo is accurate, and that is a big if, then the debate must switch from the Mogul balloons to something much more astonishing. If the interpretation is accurate, then there were "victims" of the wreck, there is talk of the beginning of a cover up, and there is a suggestion this all is linked to the flying disks meaning the flying saucers. If it is accurate, then we can begin trying to learn who those victims were and what the disk was.

On the down side, is, of course, the problem with the interpretation of the memo. Clearly is it not universally held. Skeptics, and some pro-UFO researchers, have suggested that the interpretation is more in the eye of the investigator than on the document itself.

There are, of course, those first newspaper reports where it was declared that the Army had captured a flying saucer. The words were unequivocal. They had a flying saucer. These were the first of the articles and it will be argued, with some justification, that the later reports are the more accurate ones. Though the explanation does seem a little thin.

And to be fair, I must note that Brigadier General Thomas DuBose, who was in Ramey's office at the time did suggest that those later newspaper reports were part of a cover-up to "get the reporters off Ramey's back." That would suggest that the earlier reports more closely reflected history and the truth than those later reports.

More Eyewitness Testimony

The majority of the pro side of the case is made up of the eyewitnesses. Again, if their memories are accurateand they haven't embellished what they saw and what they did, then the Roswell case is obviously extraterrestrial and now something of a more mundane nature.

We can start with Jesse Marcel, Sr. who said, repeatedly, that the object he found was something that came to Earth but it had not been made on Earth. He was trained in intelligence, knew the aircraft and the capabilities of most foreign nations, knew what was in the American inventory, and could recognize a balloon when he saw it. Had he misidentified a balloon in 1947, there was nothing to be gained by saying, in 1977, that it had been a flying saucer.

Although there are those who were clearly in Roswell in July 1947 who say that nothing happened, they aren't the men in the key positions with one exception (and I should note here that the exception was not in Roswell on the critical days). That the pilots assigned to the various squadrons didn't know what was happening at the higher levels isn't surprising. What is important here is that the men who should have known, the Adjutant, the Intelligence Officer, the Operations Officer did know and confirm something stranger than a Mogul balloon fell.

We can add other witnesses who are credible such as Jesse Marcel, Jr., who saw and handled the debris. There is Bill Brazel who saw the markings on the ground, namely the gouge, and who handled small parts of the debris. Sallye Tadolini, the daughter of Marian Strickland, who handled a piece of debris that Bill Brazel had found. There is former 509th sergeant, Robert Smith, who helped load aircraft with crates containing the debris, who saw a small bit of foil from the wreckage. Frankie Rowe, who skeptics ignore, who saw the foil the State Policeman had.

We can talk of a long list of people who ran into the military cordon around crash site including young William Woody, radio station owner Judd Roberts, CIC Master Sergeant Lewis "Bill" Rickett, and a dozen others. Even if the crash had been one of the Mogul balloons, there wouldn't have been the extraordinary effort to retrieve the debris and keep civilians away. In other cases, the balloons were left where they fell and might still be out there today.

The Ugly

The Air Force, the skeptics, the debunkers, and quite a few people who never bothered to look at all the evidence, believe that Project Mogul is a viable explanation for what crashed at Roswell. Overlooking the fact that the Air Force tried to palm off this explanation, here meaning a weather balloon, withinhours, that they have come up with more ridiculous explanations for the Roswell debris, and forgetting that balloons of any sort don't really explain the case, does Project Mogul make any sense at all?

First it must be remembered that the Air Force claimed that Launch No. Four, made on June 4, 1947 is responsible for the debris. They imply in their report that these balloons were something special. In fact, polyethylene, a material that was developed for constant level balloons might have fooled some of the less sophisticated witnesses because of its very nature, the descriptions of debris provided by the eyewitnesses suggests it was not polyethylene. However, the records show that the first of the polyethylene balloons was not launched until July 3, 1947 and therefore couldn't have been responsible for the material found on the Brazel (Foster) ranch.

Balloon Launch No. 4, according to the diary kept by Dr. Albert Crary, Project Mogul leader, was made of a cluster of regular meteorological balloons made of neoprene. It did contain a "sonobuoy" or microphone, but no "official" record was kept because no data of scientific importance was recovered. Charles Moore (one of the project engineers) said that he believed they had lost track of Launch No. 4. near Arabela, New Mexico which is twenty or thirty miles south of the Brazel ranch site. Unfortunately there is no documentation to support this claim.

The other important point, though the Air Force doesn't make it clear, is that there was nothing special about the balloons in Launch No. 4. There was nothing on it that would fool anyone. They were standard weather balloons, about 15 feet in diameter, and made of neoprene. Neoprene that, after exposure to sunlight, would turn from a tan to a black and begin to rapidly disintegrate. The black color wouldn't be uniform. The portions directly exposed to sunlight would blacken faster than those in shadow. The point is that the rubber reacted to the heat and light from the sun. Attempts to cut it, or to burn it, would have been successful. And surely someone, if not Marcel himself, would have recognized the material as having come from a neoprene weather balloon.

But what is important here is that the only documented record for Flight No. 4 mentions exactly what it was and there were no rawin targets on it to create the metallic debris. Dr. Crary's diary suggests that the first flight containing an entire array wasn't made until June 5 and that debris was recovered east of Roswell.

The Air Force maintains that the balloon laid in the field for more than a month. The *Roswell Daily Record,* on July 9, suggests that Brazel found the

balloon first on June 14, ten days after the launch, but left it there for another three weeks. What the Air Force failed to mention is that in another article published on the same day, in the same newspaper, it was suggested that “The weather balloon was found several days ago near the center of New Mexico by Rancher W.W. Brazel.”

The Air Force also implied that the reason there was a cover up was to protect Project Mogul. While the project itself was highly classified, the balloons, rawin targets, and other equipment were not classified. There was little of intelligence value to be recovered by Soviet agents if they knew that balloons were being launched from the Alamogordo Army Air Field.

In fact there was so little of importance attached to the balloons that a story about them was published in the *Alamogordo News* on July 10. If Soviet agents were interested in Mogul and balloon launches, that article provided more than enough clues. There are photos of the balloon clusters, but more importantly, Watson Laboratories and some of the men involved in those launches were mentioned. The mission, of course, was not, but the fact there was a story at all tells us everything we need to know about the project.

Had what Brazel found been nothing more than an experimental balloon, there would have been no reason for the elaborate events that took place around it. Brazel would have recognized it and disposed of it without having to consult the local sheriff or the military at the Roswell base. This is especially true if Bessie Brazel is to be believed. She claimed they had picked it all up.

If it was only a balloon, as Sheridan Cavitt claimed, why didn't he mention it to anyone, saving the 509th from the embarrassment of announcing they had a flying saucer, only to have that statement challenged by the officers at the Eighth Air Force?

There is one other piece of evidence. Brigadier General Arthur Exon reported that in 1947 he had the opportunity to fly over the impact site and debris field. He said, "It was probably part of the same accident but there were two distinct sites. One, assuming that the thing, as I understand it, as I remember flying the area later, that the damage to the vehicle seemed to be coming from the southeast to the northwest but it could have been going in the opposite direction, but it doesn't seem likely. So the farther northwest pieces found on the ranch, those were mostly metal."

His testimony corroborates two sites, the orientation of those sites, and effectively eliminates Project Mogul. There is no way for Project Mogul to create two distinct sites that are part of a single event. Nor is there any way for Project Mogul to create the gouges mentioned by General Exon in other conversations. Weaver ignored Exon's testimony because of the damage it does to the Project Mogul theory.

In fact, the GAO, in their review of the situation for Congressman Steven Schiff examined the Air Force position and found it inadequate. The GAO report said, "The Air Force report concluded that there was no dispute that something

happened near Roswell in July 1947 and that all available official materials indicated the most likely source of the wreckage recovered was one of the project MOGUL balloon trains."

It must be noted that the GAO did not endorse the conclusion, merely reported on it. It other circumstances, when GAO investigations have corroborated information, they have commented on it positively. In this case, there were no such positive comments.

Another aspect of *The Ugly* is Operation Majestic-Twelve, or, as it is popularly called, MJ-12. I have made the arguments against MJ-12 for years. There has been nothing to change that. I will go over, briefly, the arguments against MJ-12 which begins, frankly, with the lack of provenance. No one can say, for certain, where these documents originated. The copies we have came from an undeveloped 35 mm roll of film that was allegedly mailed from Albuquerque, New Mexico to UFO researcher Jaime Shandera who lived, at the time in southern California.

I asked Stan Friedman about this point, meaning the lack of provenance. On February 13, 2001, he wrote to me suggesting, “Lack of provenance is bothersome, but understandable. Whoever filmed the EBD [Eisenhower Briefing Document] and/or planted the CT [CutlerTwining Memo] was violating security by the filming and the release. Having a classified document is not against the law. Being an authorized recipient who leaks it to uncleared personnel is very much a violation. One might suggest that the lack of provenance is an indication of genuineness.”

Except in the world around us, the lack of provenance is considered a major stumbling block. The *Hitler Diaries*, the *Jack the Ripper Diaries*, and a couple of other hoaxes have been exposed simply because the documents had no provenance. They were found by someone and announced by the finder who couldn’t explain how he had come into possession of the documents. There was no way to trace them from the man who released them to the man who had supposedly written them in the beginning. Lack of provenance does not suggest authenticity of the documents and is not an indication of genuineness.

There might be a way to find out the truth on these first MJ-12 documents, that is, the Eisenhower Briefing Document and the Truman Letter attached to it. Philip Klass, the UFO debunker and opponent of MJ-12 has suggested that he talked to a question document expert who has declared that the documents were faked. At first, Klass only identified the man by his initials, PT, but later, in his skeptical newsletter about UFOs, revealed that it was Peter Tytell. Ironically, Friedman had sent copies of the original MJ-12 documents to Tytell for his analysis. Tytell, then, is an accepted expert by both sides in this debate, but one who is quoted only by the debunkers, and ignored by the proponents.

I had a chance to talk to Tytell and he told me that the typeface used on the Truman memo [meaning the font of the typewriter] was most consistent with a Smith-Corona P102 typewriter, which was used on typewriters made after 1966.

If true, this, by itself, means the Truman memo is a fake since it was supposedly created in 1947. Even if we accept the idea that the document dates no earlier than 1952, the date of the Eisenhower Briefing, the date is still too early for this particular typewriter to be used.

Moore and Shandera, the men who had introduced the world to MJ12, in a special report they created, *The MJ-12 Documents: An Analytical Report*, mentioned a second expert, whom they do not identify, as saying that he thought the typeface was from a Ransmayer & Rodrian 664, but had no dates of manufacture. Still another unidentified expert said the typeface was from an Underwood UP3A, which was manufactured between 1933 and 1946. But they offered no evidence that this was the case and did not supply the names of either expert and did not offer an example of the typeface from that older typewriter.

So, the discussion of typefaces, which could be the critical blow to MJ-12, seems to be a wash, except for a couple of important facts. First, I have no idea who the two "experts" are who identified typewriters with unspecified manufacture dates or dates that precede the creation of the Truman memo. I do, on the other hand, know who the expert is who said that the type is from a machine manufactured after 1966. Tytell told me, "This is the slam dunk." To Tytell, the typewriter problem proved the memo a fake.

In fact, on February 13, 2001, Friedman added to his objections of Tytell's comments. He wrote, "I am aware of Peter Tytell's offhand, informal, unwritten comments about the typewriters. However, he has, to the best of my knowledge never provided a formal official written paid for analysis."

In today's world, this is known as spin. The conclusions are not what proponents want to hear, so they spin it, calling them informal and unwritten. But we do know why Tytell has not offered an official report. He wants to be paid for his analysis and until someone comes up with his fee, he isn't going to provide the written document, though he was willing to discuss, with me, his conclusions.

Friedman also wrote, "I had spoken to a QD [questioned documents] man who worked for the USPO [which I assume is the United States Postal Service] who also disagreed with Tytell."

But this provides no new or important information. Again, there is no name attached to this vague disagreement with Tytell, nor is there any indication of the man's expertise. Working for the post office certainly doesn't supply it, though working in some capacities in the post office might.

The second major problem on the Truman memo, again according to Tytell, is Truman's signature. The signature on the executive order matches, exactly, another Truman signature, this one from a letter dated October 1, 1947. The positioning of the signature on the memo also makes it suspect. Truman habitually placed his signature so that the stroke on the "T" touched the bottom of the text. On the disputed document that is not the case.

I asked Tytell specific questions about the Truman signature. To him, this was another "slam dunk." It was a second major problem with the document

which shouted fake at him.

Tytell said, "Klass is the one who came up with the prototype signature. And that's an absolute slam dunk. There's no question about it. When you look at the points where it intersects the typing on the original donor memo [that is, the October 1, 1947 letter] for the transplant, you can see that it was retouched on those points on the Majestic-12 memo. So, it's just a perfect fit. The thing was it wasn't photocopied and it wasn't photographed straight on… The guy who did one of the photographic prints had to tilt the base board to try and get the edges to come out square so whoever did the photography of the pieces of paper was not doing this on a properly set up copy stand. It was done, maybe on a tripod, or it was done hand held. However it was done, the documents were not photographed straight on… There's a slight distortion of the signature but it is not enough to make the difference here. Nowadays it you could probably get it to fit properly with computer work but it's not that the signature is an overlay but it's that at those discrete points, and their dumb document examiners talked about the thinning of the stroke at this point. At that particular point, at the exact spot where it touches a typewritten letter and it has to be retouched to get rid of the letter."

The argument about the signature has moved into a new arena. Dr. Robert Wood, and his son Ryan, suggest that the Truman memo signature might be authentic because Truman used an "autopen" to sign some documents. This strange device would sign four documents at once. If true, then the signatures could be exact. To prove their point, they need to find one of the other two, but have been unable to do that.

Of course Tytell's note that the signature on the Truman memo has been altered would rule out the autopen argument. There would be no reason to alter the signature if Truman had used an autopen, but would be if the signature was lifted, by copying, from one document and then pasted on another.

So, Tytell, who had originally been sent the documents by Friedman, concluded that they were faked. He believed that because of his expertise and the mistakes that he found in them. He communicated these negative results to Friedman, but Friedman ignored them. Instead, Friedman said that four other document examiners said the documents were authentic, but provided no name or credentials for any of them. Worse still, he supplied no written report from them so that we might assess the accuracy of what they found.

This is a very truncated version of the MJ-12 arguments and I believe that those interested might want to look at the following books to improve their understanding of the whole mess:

But before we leave MJ-12, there is one other thing that I believe is important to understanding the whole affair. I remembered something that Stan Friedman had told me a long time ago. Friedman told me that Moore had told him that he, Moore, was thinking about creating a "Roswell" type document because it might shake things loose. But what if the idea for this wasn't Moore's? What if it came from somewhere else?

Moore was also associated with Richard Doty, a former member of AFOSI who had lost his status as a member of AFOSI and finished his Air Force career in food service. This means, simply, that he was in charge of a Dining Facility or what we used to call a Mess Hall in the Army (now they're DFACs which stands for Dining FACility).

Moore also said that he was responsible for some of the disinformation that was leaked to Paul Bennewitz. Moore said that he played along with this, even to the point of rearranging Bennewitz's furniture to frighten him. Moore said he did it in the misguided belief that it would take him into the inner ring of the anti-UFO government programs so that he might be able to learn more about them and then expose them.

I thought at the time it was a load of crap, but probably because I was still being accused of being a government agent (this time by Don Schmitt who was supposedly my friend) and I knew this wasn't true. But what if the government wanted to discredit UFO research. What if the plan was to throw out so many different ideas, so many tangents, that anyone who stumbled onto the right one might be dragged onto another. Or, if that didn't work, just discredit all of UFO research by discrediting one small aspect of it.

For about twenty years we have been arguing the reality of MJ12. Great amounts of effort, research and money have been dumped into the chase of MJ-12 and that is effort, research and money that was not available for other, possibly more productive lines of inquiry. And in that time, we haven't uncovered anything that advances our knowledge of UFOs in any helpful way. We have not found the smoking gun documents but have found dozens, if not hundreds that are faked. In fact, some of the evidence suggests there were all faked. It even tells us who did it and why, but still the debate continues.

So, where does that leave us today? Well, Bill Moore did claim to be a government agent, he did admit to the harassment of Bennewitz for the government and he did admit to spying on researchers for the Air Force. Moore was the first to tell us of MJ12 and it was Moore who worked to prove that MJ-12 was real. Maybe there is a connection here between the government and Moore that has accomplished the mission. Twenty years later and we're still arguing about MJ-12 and when we divert our attention to MJ-12 we can't focus it in other directions, and maybe that is the whole point.

The Bad

While not wanting to be a dead horse, I will mention, once again, those witnesses whose testimony is no longer considered to be viable. Probably the first name should be Frank Kaufmann. He provided quite a bit of information, he spun his tales for years, but in the end, it was nothing more than his fantasies. I don't know why we should accept anything he said given what we know now. And no, I don't believe he was an agent of disinformation. I believe he was making it all up as he went along.

Barney Barnett, who told the story of seeing a downed flying saucer out on the Plains of San Agustin falls into this category as well. The only evidence to surface was a diary kept by his wife, Ruth, which puts Barney in Socorro on the critical days. He told the story to friends and family, but there is no evidence to suggest it as a real event.

J. Bond Johnson burst on the UFO scene after it was discovered he had taken most of the photographs of the balloon in General Ramey's office. But after telling a story that made sense and was corroborated by the newspaper articles of the time, Johnson decided that he had photographed the real debris and that Ramey had lied to him. Johnson's story twisted and turned so often it was impossible to follow and even more difficult to believe. Had he stayed with the original tale, he would have been a valuable witness.

Bill Moore did much to promote the original Roswell story, but after that success, he began to tell all sorts of weird tales. Suddenly he was the target of government intelligence operations, received, through his friend, the MJ-12 papers, and then said he spied on other UFO researchers. His initial work got us all involved, but since then, there hasn't been much of value.

I guess I'll have to throw Kent Jeffrey in here too. He once was a strong supporter of the Roswell case and created the Roswell Initiative, which a petition to President to release all classified UFO material. His research, however, convinced him that the answer to Roswell was a Mogul balloon. He did deliver the petitions, but only after writing a letter that negated any affect they might have had. If I say nothing else about Kent it would be that I believe he is honest and sincere, but he is mistaken about Roswell.

Robert Shirkey who said that he was in the operations building as debris was carried through so that he got a look at it. Not much of a story, but one that helps no one and a story that I just find illuminating.

The Good

I have, of course, detailed many of the witness stories about the Roswell crash already. There are some that, given the nature of this work, have been skipped, or mentioned almost in passing. It's not that I find their tales any less persuasive than before, it's just they didn't fit into this book.

For example, I have barely mentioned Pappy Henderson, one of the pilots who flew material to Wright Field. I believe his story to be accurate, and I believe that his wife, Sappho, who shared it with me was sincere. Karl Pflock dismissed the tale as one told by a well-know practical joker. The evidence simply does not back up that suggestion. It was merely a way to dismiss Henderson without dealing with the story.

I have, in the past, written about Sheriff Wilcox's family and I have found nothing to suggest that they are making up anything. This includes his daughters, Phyllis McGuire and Elizabeth Tulk, and his granddaughter Barbara Dugger.

Military Reaction

The skeptics are fond of saying that if anything had happened, there would be a paper trail to follow. Here they are not referring to documents about the crash itself, but to the reaction of the military to such an event. They look at the schedules, the routines, and the missions of the military and say that nothing changed. No alerts. No one moved around to counter a threat. Nothing to suggest that intelligence gathering was increased. Everything remained the same.

Except that's not quite accurate. First, we can find newspaper articles dated July 9, 1947 in which it is reported that the Army and the Navy moved to stop th rumors of flying saucers "whizzing" through the atmosphere. Notice the date. Just one day after it was announced that the Army had found a flying saucer.

For two weeks, or from June 24 when Kenneth Arnold's sighting of nine objects near Mt. Rainier sparked the interest in flying saucers, the military had remained virtually quiet. Sure, there had been comments by officers that the flying saucers did not represent any sort of military project. There were stories in which highranking military officials denied knowing anything more about the flying saucers than did the general public. But that was really all that was talked about.

Then, suddenly, on July 9, they move to stop the rumors. Why would they do that on that specific date? What happened to suggest to them that it might be a good idea, not only to stop the talk, but to suppress it?

There is another bit of evidence. Edward Ruppelt, in 1951, took over Project Grudge, the Air Force investigation of flying saucers. Under his leadership, it evolved into Project Blue Book, and it became an real investigation into flying saucers. When his tour there ended, and when he was released from active duty, Ruppelt wrote a book about his experiences. *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects* is the standard in UFO research and it contains the sort of insider information you would expect from someone with Ruppelt's credentials.

He writes about the summer of 1947 when no official investigation existed and when there were leaders at the pinnacle of military leadership who were concerned about flying saucers. He wrote, "By the end of July 1947 the security lid was down tight. The few members of the press who did inquire about what the Air Force was doing got the same treatment that you would get today if you inquired about the number of thermonuclear weapons stock-piled in the U.S.'s atomic arsenal. No one, outside of a few high-ranking officers in the Pentagon, knew what the people in the barbed-wireenclosed Quonset huts that housed the Air Technical Intelligence Center were thinking or doing."

In other words, there was a reaction to the flying saucer situation and that reaction seems to be dated after the July 8 announcement. This is part of the limited documentation and insider information that we have. Granted, it's thin, but then, if the recovery was as highly classified as suggested, you would expect the information to be thin.

The Final Word (for now)

Here's what it all boils down to. On the anti-side, there is some strong documentation to suggest that nothing crashed. There are men who were clearly in Roswell in 1947, some of whom had positions of responsibility and were near the top of the "food" chain at the air base. Some of these men you expect to know something, such as Barrowclough, but who are clearly on the record as saying they had heard nothing, knew nothing, and didn't believe it.

On the pro side there is little documentation, but solid eyewitness testimony. These were the men who should have known about the crash based on who they were. Many of them, when interviewed, did confirm they knew and even suggested an extraterrestrial explanation. There is limited documentation, but there is some.

And there is the reaction of the military, kept secret, to suggest they were reacting to something extraordinary. Given the nature of the events, and the government propensity for keeping secrets, even when continued classification serves no useful purpose, this lack of information about what was happening at the top of the military pyramid is not surprising.

There is also the question of the dog that didn't bark, or in others words, the lack of any mention of Roswell in the official records of the Air Force UFO investigation. Although the investigation began in 1948, months after the Roswell case, the files actually begin in June 1947 (and it can be argued that they begin before that based on research done by Blue Book staff members), with the Kenneth Arnold sighting. There are files on many cases that pre-date Roswell, and there are files on cases that were known hoaxes and misidentifications, but there is no mention of Roswell in the files. No note that it was a weather balloon. No suggestion of interviews with the principals of the case. No discussion of the multiple flights out of Roswell with debris, orders from the higher headquarters, and no mention of the front page news throughout the world. According to the Air Force, there is no record that it anything ever happened near Roswell. Yet, there should be.

The only exception to this is a single paragraph in a single newspaper clipping about another case. In that short newspaper article is a note that the officers in New Mexico were rebuked for announcing they had found a flying saucer. Walter Haut told me, repeatedly, that even this wasn't true. No such rebuke had been issued.

So why is there no mention of Roswell? Was it because those at the higher levels in the military had determined that no one need ask questions? Or was it because they wanted no hint of Roswell in the physical records because of the questions that might be asked? In other words, the dog didn't bark and that is what is so unusual about the case.

With Roswell today, we know more, we have eliminated much of the

confusion that developed over the last decade, and we have some very strong evidence. We have solid eyewitness testimony from reliable sources who can prove they were in Roswell at the right time, they were in a position to know what was happening, and they have confirmed it. Now we need to finish the job, learning exactly what fell, and letting the world in on the greatest secret of the last one thousand years.